

# Homeland Security FACT SHEET

June 10, 2003

## State Homeland Security Assessment & Strategy Technical Assistance

### Background

State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Technical Assistance is a component of the State and Local Technical Assistance Program administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP). It was developed to assist states in meeting the needs assessment and comprehensive planning requirements under the ODP **State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Process (SHSAS)**.

### Purpose

The purpose of State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Technical Assistance is to assist states in developing and implementing an assessment and state strategy for the enhancement of jurisdictional preparedness to respond to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism incident. The program goals are to:

- Enhance the state and local jurisdictions' understanding of the assessment process
- Enhance the state and local jurisdictions' ability to conduct assessments
- Enhance the states' ability to develop a comprehensive state homeland security strategy

### Technical Assistance Sessions

ODP is providing the following four distinct training sessions to assist state and local jurisdictions to develop comprehensive state homeland security strategies.

1. **Understanding and Implementing the ODP SHSAS** (one session per state): This session provides an overview of the assessment and strategy development process. Facilitators will be able to assist states to:

- Understand the requirements of the ODP SHSAS process for the state and local jurisdictions
- Understand how to organize at the state level
- Register SAAs in the ODP Online Data Collection Tool
- Develop jurisdictions for the state
- Develop jurisdictional assessment instructions that supplement the Jurisdiction Assessment Handbook
- Provide assistance to the level required to ensure state success

**Target Audience:** State working group

2. **Jurisdiction Assessment Technical Assistance:**

This session trains presenters to instruct jurisdictions in completing the jurisdiction assessments (Train-the-Trainer). Facilitators will be able to assist jurisdictions to:

- Organize jurisdictional working groups
- Analyze state instructions and the Jurisdiction Assessment Handbook
- Successfully complete the Threat and Vulnerability Assessments (Risk Assessment)
- Use the Risk Assessment to develop planning factors
- Complete the assessment of Mutual Aid and Response Team Capabilities
- Develop Current and Desired Response Levels (Capabilities Assessment)
- Analyze Tasks by Discipline
- Determine requirements and current levels in the solution areas of planning, organizations, equipment, training, and exercises (Needs Assessment)

- Detail requirements for submission to the state SAA
- Provide assistance to the level required to ensure jurisdiction success

**Target Audience:** State and local jurisdictions

3. **Direct Jurisdiction Assessment Technical Assistance:** ODP Technical Assistance Providers can also work directly with the jurisdiction or group of jurisdictions to assist those jurisdictions in completing the tasks as outlined for the train-the-trainer program above.

**Target Audience:** Local jurisdictions

*(Each state may receive a total of five Train-the-Trainer and/or Direct Jurisdiction Assessment Technical Assistance sessions.)*

4. **Developing a State Homeland Security Strategy** (one session per state): This session provides assistance in completing the strategy for submission to ODP. Facilitators will be able to assist states to:
  - Analyze/process jurisdictional input/information
  - Prioritize jurisdictions
  - Input state-level data
  - Develop the strategy by:
    - Analyzing all roll-up information collected in the ODP Online Data Collection Tool
    - Developing a vision
    - Developing a strategic focus
    - Developing goals and objectives
    - Prioritizing objectives
    - Completing all written areas of the strategy
  - Submit the strategy to ODP
  - Provide assistance to the level required to ensure state success.

**Target Audience:** State planners

## Technical Assistance Delivery

Each session is available as on-site, state-specific assistance, and is available for delivery to state and local jurisdictions in a variety of different settings. The following are examples of settings available for delivery of these sessions:

- Advisory (one-on-one session with the technical assistance provider and the requesting state agency)
- Conference (facilitation or presentation)
- Training (train-the-trainer or train state or local experts)

## How to Request Assistance

Technical assistance available from ODP is provided without charge to a requesting state or local jurisdiction.

- All requests for technical assistance should be submitted to the ODP Helpline at (800) 368-6498
- Each request should include a brief description of the:
  - Nature and extent of the requestor's homeland security strategy development issue
  - Type of technical assistance needed
  - Efforts taken to address this need and the identification of any jurisdictions or agencies having similar needs
  - Requestor's desired schedule for technical assistance, specifically when the technical assistance is needed and any other relevant information

## For More Information

Questions concerning the State and Local Technical Assistance Program should be directed to the ODP Helpline at (800) 368-6498, or your ODP State and Local Program Management Division Program Manager. Information about technical assistance and other ODP programs is also available through the ODP website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>.