



Homeland
Security

Press Release

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**DHS ANNOUNCES OPENING OF APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006
COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT DIRECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
OVER \$32 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO FIRST RESPONDERS**

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced it is seeking applications for the fiscal year 2006 (FY 2006) Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). The FY 2006 program is slated to give out more than \$32 million in equipment to first responders in selected rural and smaller communities who are typically not eligible for funding through the Department’s Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant program. The application period officially opened today and will close September 22, 2006.

CEDAP provides smaller communities and rural areas with technology and equipment, together with training and technical assistance, to help enhance first responder capabilities throughout the nation. CEDAP provides resources such as communications interoperability equipment, information sharing technology, chemical detection devices, sensors, personal protective equipment, and rescue tools and training in how to use the equipment, devices, and technology.

“The threat of terrorism or other hazards extends beyond major metropolitan areas. Emergency response agencies in smaller communities must also be prepared to respond to all threats that may impact their citizens. CEDAP supports local partners in smaller jurisdictions with essential equipment and training that they might not otherwise afford,” said Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman. “CEDAP also contributes to national preparedness efforts by building regional response networks, fostering mutual aid between communities and enhancing communications interoperability capabilities.”

Eligible applicants include law enforcement agencies, fire, and other emergency responders who demonstrate in their application that the equipment will be used to improve their ability and capacity to respond to a major critical incident or improve their ability to work with other first responder.

Since its inception in FY 2005, over \$35.2 million worth of equipment and training have been awarded to nearly 2,000 law enforcement and fire departments through CEDAP. With over 5400 organizations competing for one of 2000 awards during FY 2005, CEDAP is highly competitive.

To submit an application for an FY 2006 CEDAP award, applicants should visit www.rkb.mipt.org/. Once submitted, the application undergoes several steps, including approval by the applicant's respective State Administrative Agency (SAA), and a review board composed of subject matter experts.