



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

Jon S. Corzine, *Governor*

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State Awarded More than \$78.8 Million in 2009 Federal Homeland Security Funding

HAMILTON — Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas today announced that New Jersey will be awarded more than \$78.8 million in federal homeland security dollars for federal fiscal year 2009.

This amount, which consists of funding under eight core homeland security programs, represents an overall increase of about 1 percent compared with last year's funding. Cañas said final award amounts under the SHSP and UASI programs could be increased up to 10% based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review of the state's investment justifications through their peer review process.

Cañas noted that the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funds dedicated for use throughout the state's 21 counties totaled just under \$26.4 million. In the coming months, the state will be working with each county on investment justifications that will ultimately result in each county being awarded funding based on the state's risk-based formula. Like last year, New Jersey was again awarded more than \$1.4 million under the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, in which funds will be used for planning, training, exercising, and equipment to improve interoperable emergency communications.

The state's seven-county Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) received more than \$35.2 million in funding for 2009, an increase of about 1 percent compared with last year. The Northern New Jersey UASI, which encompasses Jersey City and Newark and the seven counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Union, is one of seven Tier I urban regions considered at greater risk of terrorist attack. Additionally, the state's UASI area will share more than \$7.2 million with New York City's UASI under the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, which allows for regional planning for terrorist incidents and other catastrophic events.

DHS also published the state's allocations as follows:

- \$7.5 million to be awarded to the New Jersey State Police under the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program to enhance all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
- \$3.6 million awarded under the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) to enhance safety and security in communities surrounding critical infrastructure sites.
- Nearly \$643,000 to be awarded to Newark and Jersey City under the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program to enhance regional mass casualty incident response capabilities.
- Nearly \$358,000 awarded under the Citizen Corps Program to better coordinate community involvement in emergency preparedness planning, response and recovery.



“Protecting our residents and communities is one of our most important jobs,” said Governor Jon S. Corzine. “Our funding levels are slightly higher than last year’s and I have to thank Congress, especially New Jersey’s Congressional delegation, for funding these vital programs at workable levels.”

“Because of our effective and risk-based grant management practices, New Jersey held its own during this year’s round of funding,” Cañas said. “I am pleased to see the increase to UASI funding and the commitment to regional catastrophic planning, both of which are critical to New Jersey’s prevention and preparedness efforts. We will continue to follow the Governor’s mandate to distribute these funds to address our areas of greatest risk.”

Cañas said that the yearly homeland security grant process entails considerable preparation and dedication of time, and he thanked the many state, county and local participants from state agencies, the UASI executive committee, UASI disciplinary subcommittees and county working groups who work with OHSP to determine and develop the key security programs in which to invest these funds.

DHS is distributing more than \$2.2 billion in fiscal year 2009 to states across the country under eight core homeland security programs, representing a \$32.5 million increase in funds made available from these programs in 2008. An additional \$850 million in homeland security grants for port and transit security, emergency operation centers and nonprofit organizations nationwide will be awarded at a later date. In total, DHS will be awarding more than \$3.1 billion in 2009, which is about \$52 million more than what was awarded in 2008.

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