



Why This Matters

During fiscal years 2002 through 2011, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) distributed over \$18 billion from the Homeland Security Grant Program. Public Law 110-53, *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007*, requires the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, to audit individual states' management of State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants. Several of these individual State audits identified similar issues regarding FEMA's requirements for states to report progress in enhancing first responder capabilities to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with three recommendations and partially concurred with one recommendation.

The findings in the report will be used by FEMA to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of how FEMA executes and measures its programs. FEMA recognizes the need to continue to improve the process, including addressing the recommendations raised in the report.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Requirements for Reporting Homeland Security Grant Program Achievements

What We Determined

FEMA did not have a system in place to determine the extent that Homeland Security Grant Program funds enhanced the states' capabilities to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies before awarding more funds to the states. FEMA did not require states to report progress in achieving milestones as part of the annual application process for Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

As a result, when annual grant application investment justifications for individual continuing programs were being reviewed, FEMA did not know if prior year milestones for the programs had been completed. FEMA also did not know the amount of funding required to achieve needed preparedness and response capabilities.

What We Recommend

Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, FEMA:

- 1) Require the states to provide a comparison of the status of previous year milestones along with the creation of new milestones for each ongoing project included in subsequent years' grant application packages.
- 2) Require the states to report each year what has been achieved and what remains to be done for each ongoing project requiring additional funding as it relates to enhancing the state's preparedness and response capability.
- 3) Modify FEMA's grant reporting system and require states to report adjustments in project milestones when changes in funding levels or state priorities affect ongoing project activities during a grant's period of performance.
- 4) Develop policies and procedures for FEMA's monitoring program to track milestone progress and accomplishments achieved with FEMA grant funds, and include monitoring visits more frequently than once every two years.