

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

November 2012 OIG-13-08

Why This Matters

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 (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the State of Illinois \$145.4 million in UASI funds during fiscal years 2006 through 2008.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with the intent of three recommendations and concurred with the remaining five recommendations. The State of Illinois' State Administrative Agency (SAA) officials also agreed with the recommendations. FEMA proposed corrective actions that meet the intent of all the recommendations.

For Further Information:

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

The State of Illinois' Management of Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants Awarded During Fiscal Years 2006 Through 2008

What We Determined

The State generally did an efficient and effective job of administering the program requirements and distributing grant funds to the State's two Urban Areas Security Initiative subgrantees. The Chicago/Cook County urban area developed measurable goals, which were reflected in the Urban Area Strategy, and linked all-hazards capabilities to goals through related projects. The Urban Area used reasonable methodologies for prioritizing needs, and the State distributed funds and resources based on the Urban Area strategic goals and investment justifications. Grants were generally administered in compliance with applicable guidance and the State generally provided adequate monitoring and oversight. However, improvements are needed in the State's management of the Urban Areas Security Initiative grants to enhance capabilities and risk assessments; improve the performance measurement process; require the Urban Area subgrantees to comply with property, inventory, and procurement requirements; and ensure subgrantee funds are awarded in a timely manner.

What We Recommend

Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate for FEMA, require the Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to:

- Ensure that the Urban Area Working Group updates capabilities assessments at least annually, in order to determine the status on the Urban Area's capabilities.
- Ensure that the Urban Area Working Group performs risk assessments that cover the entire Urban Area.
- Ensure that the Urban Area Working Group establishes and utilizes a performance measurement process that can assess the progress towards implementing the Urban Area strategic goals and objectives.
- Maintain complete, accurate, and timely inventory records of all equipment purchased, including non-expendable property, with Department of Homeland Security grant funds.
- Ensure the Urban Area tags and identifies equipment in compliance with FEMA requirements.
- Ensure that Cook County complies with Federal and local procurement regulations.
- Review all Cook County procurements, funded by UASI funds, to determine reasonableness of cost, and recover amounts deemed unreasonable.
- Comply with FEMA's requirement to ensure that funds are obligated to the subgrantees within the FEMA specified timelines.