



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 and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the State of Florida approximately \$234 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funds during fiscal years 2007-2009, of which \$208 million was for State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants.

DHS Response

FEMA, along with officials from the State of Florida, concurred with all six of the report's recommendations.

FEMA acknowledged that the findings in the report will be used to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of how the Homeland Security Grant Programs are executed and measured. FEMA recognized the need to continue to improve the process, including addressing the recommendations raised in our report.

For Further Information:

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

The State of Florida's Management of State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants

What We Determined

Generally, the State administered grant program requirements effectively and efficiently and in compliance with grant guidance and regulations. The State's strategic plans linked goals and objectives to national priorities and Department of Homeland Security mission areas. Grant funds were spent on allowable items and activities, and adequate controls existed over the approval of expenditures and reimbursement of funds.

The State did not adequately calculate and award State Homeland Security Program funds designated for local jurisdictions in the 2009 grant year as required by grant guidance. Approximately \$2.9 million was not distributed to local jurisdictions that could have used these additional funds to complete critical projects that further prepare for, prevent, deter, and respond to terrorist attacks, chemical/biological incidents, or natural disasters.

Neither FEMA nor the State had an adequate performance measurement system to evaluate improvements in preparedness and response capability or the amount of additional funding and time that may be needed to ultimately achieve strategic goals and objectives. The State acknowledged the lack of useful tools for measuring performance and recognized the importance of useful performance measures to gauge progress and help guide funding decisions. Thus, the State plans to hire a consultant to evaluate its process for selecting projects and help determine the best method for the State to measure its preparedness.

What We Recommend

Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, FEMA:

- 1) Ensure that the State understands the grant guidance as it relates to subawarding funds to local jurisdictions.
- 2) Direct the State to award the remaining \$2.9 million of 2009 SHSP funds to local jurisdictions.
- 3) Require the State to review its grant obligating process to identify ways to shorten the time needed to meet grant requirements.
- 4) Require the State to update its strategic plans to include goals and objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, results oriented, and time limited.
- 5) Require the State to review long-term and sustainment projects to ensure that they include contingency plans should federal funding be reduced or eliminated.
- 6) Require the State to ensure that local funding committees place greater emphasis on sustainability when prioritizing projects for SHSP funding.