



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 Arizona (State) approximately \$95.1 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funds during fiscal years 2007 through 2009, of which almost \$48.5 million was for Urban Areas Security Initiative grants.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with both of the recommendations. Arizona officials did not agree with the nature of the finding reported, but the actions proposed meet the intent of the 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 Arizona's Management of Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants Awarded During Fiscal Years 2007 through 2009

What We Determined

Generally, the State did an effective and efficient job of administering the program requirements, distributing grant funds, and ensuring that all available funds were used. The State formed strategic planning working groups to ensure that the State strategy and the Urban Areas Security Initiative strategy were in alignment with the target capabilities, and to identify gaps in the strategy and correction action needed to close the gaps. However, we identified one area for improvement.

Specifically, the State and the Urban Area Working Groups for the Phoenix and Tucson Urban Areas were unable to provide documentation to support that all After Action Reports and Improvement Plans for FEMA-supported exercises were completed and submitted to FEMA within 60 days.

As a result, FEMA, the State and the Urban Area Working Groups' ability to properly assess capability gaps and corrective actions needed to enhance the State's first responder capabilities could be hampered.

What We Recommend

Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, FEMA direct the State to:

- Submit After Action Reports and Improvement Plans for those exercises where it has not already done so, or question the costs associated with exercises for which the State Administrative Agency does not produce the required report.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures to prepare After Action Reports and Improvement Plans and submit those reports to FEMA within 60 days following completion of the exercise.