



Why This Matters

Public Law 110-53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, as amended, requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Inspector General, to audit individual States' management of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants.

This report responds to the reporting requirement for the State of Rhode Island. The audit included a review of approximately \$33.9 million in SHSP and UASI grants awarded to the State during fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

DHS Response

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State concurred with and plans to implement all of our recommendations.

The findings in the report will be used to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of how FEMA executes and measures the subject grant programs. The agency 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@oig.dhs.gov

Rhode Island's Management of SHSP and UASI Grants 2008 Through 2010

What We Determined

Overall, the State of Rhode Island did an efficient and effective job of administering the SHSP and UASI grant program requirements, distributing grant funds, and ensuring that funds were used appropriately. The SHSP and UASI grant funds were used to enhance the State's preparedness for disasters and acts of terrorism.

The State Administrative Agency, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) has established effective working groups for communicating with and providing guidance to subgrantees. However, improvements are needed in the following areas: developing a comprehensive strategy with measurable objectives, developing a performance measurement system to assess emergency preparedness, complying with procurement and inventory requirements, and strengthening on site monitoring activities to ensure subgrantee compliance with grant requirements.

What We Recommend

FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate:

- 1) Assist the RIEMA with revising the State Homeland Security Strategy.
- 2) Expedite the development of adequate performance measures to assist RIEMA with measuring and assessing all of the State's capabilities and preparedness.
- 3) Require the RIEMA to provide training to subgrantees on how to use and comply with Federal, State, and local procurement and inventory requirements.
- 4) Require the RIEMA to ensure that subgrantees develop and sustain an inventory control system in accordance with Federal requirements.
- 5) Require the RIEMA to develop a program monitoring schedule and plan to focus monitoring efforts on active grants.
- 6) Require the RIEMA to conduct on-site monitoring monitoring of grants.