



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 Louisiana (State) approximately \$70 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funds during fiscal years 2007- 2009, of which, \$59 million was for State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants.

DHS Response

FEMA, along with officials from the State of Louisiana concurred with all three 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 Louisiana's Management of State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants

What We Determined

Generally, the State of Louisiana administered grant program requirements effectively and efficiently and in compliance with grant guidance and regulations. Louisiana linked program 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.

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. Louisiana officials acknowledged that evaluating trend analysis is difficult owing to yearly changes to the measures of specific program elements or priorities.

The State's monitoring processes are not sufficient to identify subgrantees' lack of compliance with federal financial and equipment-related requirements. Monitoring assesses the quality of program performance over time and ensures that grant activities comply with federal regulations. If monitoring is not improved, the State has an increased risk that it will not detect fraud at the subgrantee level and has no assurance that subgrantees are following federal guidelines.

What We Recommend

Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, FEMA:

- 1) Require the State develop Homeland Security strategic goals and objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, results- oriented, and time-limited, and include associated performance measures in its strategic plan.
- 2) Require the State to review the effectiveness of its current subgrantee monitoring processes and implement additional procedures to ensure compliance with all Federal and grant requirements.
- 3) Require the State to follow up on progress made by Texas A&M University and ensure that the New Orleans Urban Area implements its multi-year training and exercise plan once it is completed.