

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

August 2012 OIG-12-110

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 Georgia.

DHS Response

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Georgia concurred with the intent of our recommendations. FEMA acknowledged the need to improve the process. The agency will use the findings and recommendations in the report to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of how the programs will be executed and measured. We have provided the criteria and evidence to support these findings throughout the report and expect the State to work with FEMA accordingly.

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 Georgia's Management of SHSP and UASI Grants FY 08-10

What We Determined

DHS provides federal funding through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to help State and local agencies enhance capabilities to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. Within DHS, FEMA is responsible for the administration of the HSGP.

However, improvements are needed in the following areas: developing a comprehensive strategy with measurable objectives, developing a performance measurement system to assess emergency preparedness, obligating unencumbered grant funds timely, and strengthening on-site monitoring activities to ensure sub-grantee compliance with federal inventory and accountability requirements. These issues exist because FEMA and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency have not provided sufficient guidance and oversight for the grant process. As a result, the State does not have an effective way to measure or assess overall State capabilities and emergency preparedness.

What We Recommend

We made nine recommendations that call for FEMA to initiate improvements which, if implemented, should help strengthen grant program management, performance, and oversight. The recommendations focus on assisting the State in: 1) developing a comprehensive Homeland Security Strategy that includes specific, measurable, and results-oriented objectives and ensures that objective completion dates are consistently listed in the strategies; 2) developing performance measures; 3) assess and streamline the current processes and procedures involved with the execution of subgrantee awards to expedite and obligate funds; 4) notify all entities awarded Homeland Security Grant Program funds of the requirement to use and follow Federal, State and local procurement policies and standards; 5) complete a review of all grant-funded purchases using fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 SHSP and UASI grant funds of \$100,000; 6) develop a program monitoring schedule and plan focusing monitoring efforts on subgrantees; 7) revise and update the financial monitoring guide to ensure that it captures relevant and accurate information necessary to ensure there is a review of subgrantee compliance; 8) ensure that subgrantees develop and sustain an inventory control system that meets federal requirements; and 9) enhance the monitoring reviews to include a component for following up with and verifying corrective actions initiated by grantees as a result of prior audit reports.