

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

November 2012 OIG-13-10

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. This report responds to the reporting requirement for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The audit included a review of \$90 million in State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants awarded to the Commonwealth during fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

DHS Response

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concurred with the seven recommendations and is taking steps or planning to take steps for corrective actions to address the audit findings.

For Further Information:

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

The Commonwealth of Virginia's Management of SHSP and UASI Grants FYs 2008 Through 2010

What We Determined

In most instances, the Commonwealth of Virginia distributed and spent State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds in compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. Additionally, the Commonwealth developed Homeland Security Strategies that included goals and objectives that were consistent with Federal requirements. However, the Commonwealth needs to (1) develop a comprehensive performance measurement system, (2) strengthen grant management oversight, and (3) award and expend grant funds in a timely manner.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, assist the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to:

1. Develop a comprehensive performance measurement system for its Homeland Security Strategies' goals and objectives.
2. Revise its policies and procedures for monitoring subgrantees to provide reasonable assurance that subgrantees are complying with Federal laws and regulations.
3. Develop and implement policies and procedures for selecting open and closed SHSP and UASI subgrantee projects for audits conducted by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
4. Ensure correct allocation of grant funds by implementing employee activity reports that reflect an after-the-fact distribution of actual employee activity for employees working on multiple grant programs.
5. Complete a review of the questioned costs to determine whether the costs were justified and fair and reasonable.
6. Assess the current processes and procedures to improve the efficiency of awarding Homeland Security Grant Program funds to local units of government and urban areas.
7. Assess the current process and identify ways to improve subgrantees' performance in meeting established grant performance time lines.