



### 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 Ohio (State) approximately \$132 million in Homeland Security Grant Program funds during fiscal years 2007 through 2009, of which almost \$113 million was for State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants.

### DHS Response

FEMA concurred with 11 of the 12 recommendations and concurred with the intent of the remaining recommendation. Ohio officials concurred with 8 of the 12 recommendations and concurred with the intent of the remaining 4 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](mailto:DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov)

## The State of Ohio's Management of State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative Grants

### What We Determined

Generally, the State did an efficient and effective job of administering program requirements, distributing grant funds, and ensuring that all available funds were used. The State also used an appropriate process for developing a strategy for improving preparedness that contained measurable goals and objectives that were consistent with FEMA guidance. However, we identified five areas for improving grants management.

Specifically, the State did not release funds to subgrantees in a timely manner. The State also did not always make payments to subgrantees for grant expenditures in a timely manner.

Further, the State did not ensure that federal regulations were followed for procurements of equipment and services with Homeland Security Grant Program funds. State subgrantees did not always maintain property management records in accordance with federal requirements. Lastly, the State did not conduct monitoring visits to Urban Areas Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Program recipients for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 grant awards.

### What We Recommend

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

- Review the subgrantee award application and approval process to identify ways to make it more efficient and less time consuming; and provide detailed guidance to the subgrantees concerning the process upon implementation.
- Establish a clear time standard for processing payment requests from subgrantees consistent with reasonable business practice; and conduct a comprehensive analysis of the subgrantee payment procedures, documentation requirements, and automated systems to identify ways to streamline the process.
- Develop and provide to all State grant staff and subgrantee grant managers, training on State and federal regulations pertaining to competitive procurement; and prepare, publish and disseminate guidance detailing procurement regulations and procedures for acquiring equipment and services using FEMA grant funds to all applicable parties. Complete a review of all grant-funded purchases of \$100,000 or more for compliance with grant guidance.
- Develop and disseminate guidance to all subgrantees establishing property management standards that fully comply with federal requirements.
- Develop methods to better monitor subgrantees, including policies and procedures for on-site monitoring of grant recipients on a recurring basis that include evaluations of the recipients' overall management of the grants and the achievement of program goals.