

# The U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Fiscal Year 2024 Intercity Bus Security Grant Program

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Release Date: avr 16, 2024

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All entities wishing to do business with the federal government must have a unique entity identifier (UEI). The UEI number is issued by the SAM system. Requesting a UEI using Sam.gov can be found at <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.

Grants.gov registration information can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

## **Updates in Grant Application Forms:**

The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number was replaced by a new, non-proprietary identifier requested in, and assigned by SAM.gov. This new identifier is the Unique Entity Identifier.

Additional Information can be found on Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-development/planned-uei-updates>

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### **A. Program Description**

#### **1. Issued By**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Grant Programs Directorate (GPD)

#### **2. Assistance Listings Number**



**FEMA**

97.057

**3. Assistance Listings Title**

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program

**4. Funding Opportunity Title**

Fiscal Year 2024 Intercity Bus Security Grant Program

**5. Funding Opportunity Number**

DHS-24-GPD-057-00-97

**6. Authorizing Authority for Program**

Section 1532 of the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007* (Pub. L. No. 110-53) (6 U.S.C. § 1182)

**7. Appropriation Authority for Program**

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024, Pub. L. No. 118-47, Title III, Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (2024 DHS Appropriations Act)

**8. Announcement Type**

Initial

**9. Program Category**

Preparedness: Infrastructure Security

**10. Program Overview, Objectives and Priorities**

**a. Overview**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP) is one of four grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) focus on transportation



infrastructure security activities. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS to help strengthen the nation's critical infrastructure against potential terrorist attacks. The IBSGP provides funds to intercity bus companies to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism. Past examples of funded projects include those for cameras that allow for live monitoring, fencing to secure property(ies), and GPS technologies that allow for remote disabling of fleet. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the [DHS Strategic Plan](#) for Fiscal Years 2020-2024, the IBSGP supports the goal to Strengthen Preparedness and Resilience.

For FY 2024, DHS is focused on the criticality of information sharing and collaboration to building a national culture of preparedness and protecting against terrorism and other threats to our national security. DHS and its homeland security mission were born from the "failures among federal agencies and between the federal agencies and state and local authorities to share critical information related to the threat of terrorism" prior to the September 11, 2001, attacks.<sup>[1]</sup> The threat profile has changed in the past two decades; we now face continuous cyber threats by sophisticated actors, threats to soft targets and crowded places, threats to our democratic election process and threats from new and emerging technologies. But information sharing and cooperation among state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities, and federal agencies, including all DHS officials, is just as vital, and perhaps even more vital, today. Therefore, for FY 2024, we have identified two priority areas related to some of the most serious threats that recipients should address with their IBSGP funds. These two priorities areas are enhancing cybersecurity and enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places. Also, DHS will continue to forge partnerships to strengthen information sharing and collaboration in each of these priority areas.

For FY 2023, 42 applications were received and 19 approved for funding. For a full list of recipients, please refer to [Information Bulletin \(IB\) 490a](#).

## **b. Goals, Objectives, and Priorities**

Goals: Strengthen the nation's critical transportation infrastructure against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks.

Objectives: IBSGP achieves this through the following objectives:



1. Building and sustaining core capabilities (identified in the [National Preparedness Goal](#)) relevant to transit security and annual national priority areas (see priorities below);
2. Addressing and closing gaps identified in agency vulnerability assessments and security plans; and
3. Continuously engaging in a process of emergency related planning, exercising, and training. Using this cycle to test plans; validate capabilities and identify gaps; inform investments; and continuously update plans to reflect organizational changes as well as findings from exercises and real-world events.

Priorities: Given the evolving threat landscape, it is incumbent upon DHS/FEMA to continuously evaluate the national risk profile and set priorities that help ensure appropriate allocation of scarce security dollars. In assessing the national risk profile for FY 2024, two priority areas pose the most concern:

1. Enhancing cybersecurity; and
2. Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places.

For more information about these priorities, see Section D.10.b.

Additionally, there are several enduring security needs that crosscut the homeland security enterprise. The following are second-tier priorities that help recipients implement a comprehensive approach to securing critical transportation infrastructure:

1. Effective planning;
2. Training and awareness campaigns;
3. Equipment and capital projects; and
4. Exercises.

The table below provides a breakdown of these priority areas for the FY 2024 IBSGP, showing both the core capabilities enhanced and lifelines supported, as well as examples of eligible project types for each area. More information on allowable investments can be found in Section D.12 “Funding Restrictions and Allowable Costs.” As discussed in Section E of this NOFO, projects that sufficiently address one or both of the two National Priorities (enhancing cybersecurity or enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places) will have



their final review scores increased by a multiplier of 20%.

## FY 2024 IBSGP Funding Priorities

*All priorities in this table concern the Safety and Security and Transportation Lifelines.*

### National Priorities

Priorities	Core Capabilities	Example Project Types
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Enhancing  
Cybersecurity

- Cybersecurity
  - Intelligence and information sharing
  - Planning
  - Public information and warning
  - Operational coordination
  - Screening, search, and detection
  - Access control and identity verification
  - Supply chain integrity and security
  - Risk management for protection programs and activities
  - Long-term vulnerability reduction
  - Situational assessment
  - Infrastructure systems
  - Operational communications
- Cybersecurity risk assessments
  - Projects that address vulnerabilities identified in cybersecurity risk assessments
    - Improving cybersecurity of critical infrastructure to meet minimum levels identified by the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#) and the [National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework \(Version 1.1\)](#)
    - Adoption of cybersecurity performance goals ([CISA's Cross-Sector Cybersecurity Performance Goals](#))
  - Cybersecurity training and planning



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<p>Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Operational coordination</li> <li>■ Public information and warning</li> <li>■ Intelligence and information sharing</li> <li>■ Interdiction and disruption</li> <li>■ Screening, search, and detection</li> <li>■ Access control and identity verification</li> <li>■ Physical protective measures</li> <li>■ Risk management for protection programs and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Physical security enhancements at bus stations located in historically eligible Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) urban areas</li> <li>■ Security cameras (closed circuit television)</li> <li>■ Security screening equipment and technology for people and baggage</li> <li>■ Access controls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fencing, barriers, gates, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Remote disabling technology for over-the-road bus fleets</li> <li>■ Automatic vehicle location technology</li> <li>■ Global positioning software</li> </ul>
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**Enduring Needs**

Priorities	Core Capabilities	Example Project Types
<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Planning</li> <li>■ Risk management for protection programs and activities</li> <li>■ Risk and disaster resilience assessment</li> <li>■ Threats and hazards identification</li> <li>■ Operational coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ System-wide Security Risk Management Plans</li> <li>■ Continuity of Operations Plans</li> <li>■ Response Plans/Station Action Plans</li> <li>■ System-wide and/or asset-specific vulnerability assessments</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Efforts to strengthen governance integration between/among regional partners</li> </ul>



Priorities	Core Capabilities	Example Project Types
Training & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Long-term vulnerability reduction</li> <li>■ Public information &amp; warning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Security training for employees, to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Basic security awareness</li> <li>■ Active shooter/attacker, including integrating the needs of persons with disabilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Public awareness/preparedness campaigns</li> </ul>
Equipment & Capital Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Long-term vulnerability reduction</li> <li>■ Infrastructure systems</li> <li>■ Operational communications</li> <li>■ Interdiction and disruption</li> <li>■ Screening, search, and detection</li> <li>■ Access control and identity verification</li> <li>■ Physical protective measures</li> <li>■ Intelligence and Information Sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Top Transit Asset List (TTAL) risk remediation</li> <li>■ Protection of other high-risk, high-consequence areas or systems that have been identified through system-wide risk assessments</li> <li>■ Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive detection, prevention, response, and recovery equipment</li> <li>■ Security screening equipment and technology for people and baggage</li> <li>■ Unmanned Aircraft Systems and detection technologies</li> </ul>
Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Long-term vulnerability reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Security exercises to enhance prevention, response, and coordination capabilities related to the effects of a terrorist attack scenario</li> </ul>

**c. Alignment to Program Purpose and the DHS and FEMA Strategic Plan**



Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the [DHS Strategic Plan](#) for Fiscal Years 2020-2024, the IBSGP supports the goal to Strengthen Preparedness and Resilience.

The [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#) outlines three bold, ambitious goals in order to position FEMA to address the increasing range and complexity of disasters, support the diversity of communities we serve, and complement the nation's growing expectations of the emergency management community. The IBSGP supports Goal 3 to Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and Prepared Nation. We invite our stakeholders and partners to also adopt these priorities and join us in building a more prepared and resilient nation.

## 11. Performance Measures

Performance metrics for this program are as follows:

- Percentage of funding allocated by the recipient to core capabilities to build or sustain the national priorities identified in the section above.

## B. Federal Award Information

### 1. Available Funding

\$1,800,000

### 2. Period of Performance

24 months

Extensions to the period of performance are allowed. For additional information on period of performance extensions, please refer to the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) (FM-207-23-001).

### 3. Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s)



September 1, 2024

#### **4. Projected Period of Performance End Date(s)**

August 31, 2026

#### **5., Projected Budget Period(s)**

**There will be only a single budget period with the same start and end dates as the period of performance.**

#### **6. Funding Instrument Type**

Grant

### **C. Eligibility Information**

#### **1. Eligible Applicants**

Private operators providing intercity over-the-road bus transportation that have also completed a vulnerability assessment and developed a security plan, which the Secretary of Homeland Security has approved as described in Section 1531 of the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act)* (Pub. L. No. 110-53) (6 U.S.C. § 1181). Private operators are non-governmental entities that may include, but are not limited to, sole proprietorships, affiliates, parent companies, and subsidiaries.

#### **2. Applicant Eligibility Criteria**

Eligibility for funding is further limited to applicants that meet one or both of the following criteria:

- Operate fixed-route intercity bus transportation providing services to one or more historically eligible UASI urban areas as indicated below.
- Operate a charter bus service using over-the-road buses and provide a minimum of 50 trips annually to one or more historically eligible UASI urban areas as indicated below.



The following definitions are applicable for the purpose of meeting FY 2024 IBSPG eligibility requirements:

- Charter bus service is defined as a bus service that operates neither over fixed routes nor on regular schedules. Note: A charter bus service is characterized by the rental of a bus and the services of a driver to a person or group where all passengers embark and disembark at the same point. A charter bus service must use over-the-road buses.
- Fixed-route intercity bus service is defined as passenger transportation service provided to the general public for compensation over specified, predetermined, and published routes between cities or terminals using over-the-road-buses.
- An over-the-road bus is defined as a vehicle designated for long-distance transportation of passengers, characterized by integral construction with an elevated passenger deck located over a baggage compartment and at least 35 feet in length, with a capacity of more than 30 passengers. Only over-the-road buses are eligible for vehicle security enhancements through this program. Limousines, mini-coaches, school buses, or any other vehicle that does not fit the definition of an over-the-road bus are not eligible.
- A trip is defined as a single bus journey from an embarkation point to the furthest destination in that journey. For example, a trip from New York City to Denver to San Francisco would be considered a single trip. A trip is made to an historically eligible UASI urban area if at any point in the trip the bus stops in an historically eligible UASI urban area and embarks or disembarks passengers. For example, a trip from Newburgh, New York to New York City to Charleston, West Virginia is a trip to an historically eligible UASI urban area if passengers embark or disembark in New York City.
- An historically eligible UASI urban area is a high-risk urban area that has received UASI funding in the past.

**List of Historically Eligible UASI Urban Areas**

State	Urban Area
Arizona	Phoenix
	Tucson



State	Urban Area
California	Anaheim/Santa Ana
	Bakersfield
	Bay Area
	Fresno
	Los Angeles/Long Beach
	Oxnard
	Riverside
	Sacramento
	San Diego
Colorado	Denver
Connecticut	Bridgeport
	New Haven
	Hartford
District of Columbia/Maryland/Virginia	National Capital Region
Florida	Fort Lauderdale
	Jacksonville
	Miami
	Orlando
	Tampa
Georgia	Atlanta



State	Urban Area
Hawaii	Honolulu
Illinois	Chicago
Indiana	Indianapolis
Kentucky	Louisville
Kansas/Missouri	Kansas City
Louisiana	Baton Rouge
	New Orleans
Maryland	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Boston
Michigan	Detroit
Minnesota	Twin Cities
Missouri/Illinois	St. Louis
Nebraska	Omaha
Nevada	Las Vegas
New Jersey	Jersey City/Newark
New York	Albany
	Buffalo
	New York City
	Rochester
	Syracuse



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State	Urban Area
North Carolina	Charlotte
Ohio	Cincinnati
	Cleveland
	Columbus
	Toledo
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City
	Tulsa
Oregon	Portland
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh
	Philadelphia
Puerto Rico	San Juan
Rhode Island	Providence
Tennessee	Memphis
	Nashville
Texas	Austin
	Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington
	El Paso
	Houston
	San Antonio
Utah	Salt Lake City



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State	Urban Area
Virginia	Norfolk
	Richmond
Washington	Seattle
Wisconsin	Milwaukee

An application submitted by an otherwise eligible non-federal entity (i.e., the applicant) may be deemed ineligible when the person that submitted the application is not: 1) a **current employee, personnel, official, staff, or leadership** of the non-federal entity; and 2) **duly authorized to apply** for an award on behalf of the non-federal entity at the time of application.

Further, the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and Signatory Authority (SA) must be a duly authorized current employee, personnel, official, staff or leadership of the recipient and **provide an email address unique to the recipient at the time of application and upon any change in assignment during the period of performance. Consultants or contractors of the recipient are not permitted to be the AOR or SA of the recipient. It is the sole responsibility of the recipient to keep their points of contact for the organization up-to-date and accurate in all federal systems.**

Applicant’s failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in the Federal awarding agency returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude the Federal awarding agency from making a Federal award.

### 3. Subawards and Beneficiaries

#### a. Subaward allowability

Subawards are not allowed under the IBSGP.

#### b. Beneficiaries or Participants



This NOFO and any subsequent federal awards create no rights or causes of action for any participant or beneficiary.

#### **4. Other Eligibility Criteria/Restrictions**

##### **a. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation**

Prior to allocation of any federal preparedness awards, recipients must ensure and maintain adoption and implementation of NIMS. The list of objectives used for progress and achievement reporting is on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/implementation-training>.

Please see the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for more information on NIMS.

##### **b. Application Limitations**

- Eligible applicants may only submit one application; and
- Each application may only include one Investment Justification (IJ).

##### **c. Vulnerability Assessment and Security Plans**

To be eligible for the FY 2024 IBSGP, operators must have developed or updated their organization's Vulnerability Assessment and Security Plan (VASP) that must be based on a security assessment, such as the Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement (BASE) performed by Transportation Security Inspectors-Surface from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Private operators providing transportation with an over-the-road bus system must have completed or updated their VASP within the past three years before the opening of the FY 2024 IBSGP application period. Additionally, a copy of the VASP certification must be submitted along with the application in order to be considered eligible. Failure to include this certification will result in the application being deemed ineligible. All operators must have completed or updated a VASP as required by Section 1531 of the *9/11 Act* (6 U.S.C. § 1181) as follows:

- Assessments and security plans should include, as appropriate:
  - Identification and evaluation of critical assets and infrastructure, including buses, platforms, stations, terminals, and information systems;



- Identification of vulnerabilities to those assets and infrastructure; and
- Identification of gaps in physical security; passenger and cargo security; the security of programmable electronic devices, computers, or other automated systems that are used in providing over-the-road bus transportation; alarms, cameras and other communications systems and utilities needed for over-the-road bus security purposes, including dispatching systems; emergency response planning; and employee training.
- Security plans should also include, as appropriate:
  - The identification of a security coordinator having authority to implement security actions, coordinate security improvements, and receive communications from appropriate federal officials regarding over-the-road bus security;
  - A list of needed capital and operational improvements;
  - Procedures to be implemented or used by the operator in response to a terrorist attack, including evacuation and passenger communication plans that include individuals with access and functional needs;
  - The identification of steps taken with state and local law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, and federal officials to coordinate security measures and plans for response to a terrorist attack;
  - A strategy and timeline for conducting training to prepare frontline employees for potential security threats and conditions;
  - Enhanced security measures to be taken by the operator when the Secretary of Homeland Security declares a period of heightened security risk; and
  - Plans for providing redundant and backup systems required to ensure the continued operation of critical elements of the operator's system in the event of a terrorist attack.

Note that the information above on the VASP is repeated in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

For additional information on the above requirements, please contact TSA at [TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:TSA-Surface@tsa.dhs.gov). Project requests will not be considered until bus operators develop and certify vulnerability assessments and security plans. See below for a template VASP certification statement.

### **Vulnerability Assessment and Security Plan Certification Statement**



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Applicants must certify that they have had a vulnerability assessment completed and a security evaluation preparedness plan developed or updated within the past three years. Failure to submit this certification or modifying the language in this certification will result in an application not being considered for funding. Applicants are also required to submit their vulnerability assessments and security plans to DHS/FEMA upon request.

**I, [insert name], as [insert title] of [insert name of bus company],  
certify that a vulnerability assessment has been completed and a  
security evaluation preparedness plan has been developed or  
updated for my company within the last three years**

Signature

Date

#### **d. Ineligible Applicants**

Applicants that do not meet the requirements under “Eligible Applicants” in this NOFO, and Section 1531 of the *9/11 Act* (6 U.S.C. § 1181), are ineligible to apply for FY 2024 IBSGP funds. Specific ineligible service categories include:

- School buses;
- Fixed-service routes under contract to transit authorities within UASI urban areas;
- Fixed-service routes not stopping in qualifying UASI urban areas;
- Intra-city trolley and/or tour services;
- Bus company owners that are not operators; and
- Intra-city bus service; funding for intra-city bus security is addressed through the Transit Security Grant Program.

Applications will further be considered ineligible for the following reasons:

- An application submitted by an entity that does not meet the eligibility requirements, as described in this NOFO;
- An application submitted by an eligible entity that is deficient in any of the documentary submission requirements, as described in this NOFO;



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- An application submitted by an eligible applicant, when the submitter is not a current employee, personnel, official, staff or leadership of the applicant and duly authorized to apply for an award on behalf of the applicant at the time of application; or
- Regardless of an applicant's intent, applications for funding that are deemed "Duplicate Applications" are generally ineligible. As an example, if two applications for the same potential recipient are submitted, both applications will be deemed "Duplicate Applications" and both may be ineligible. However, FEMA retains the discretion to fund one of those duplicate applications based on the criteria set forth in this NOFO.

## 5. Cost Share or Match

The FY 2024 IBSGP has a cost-share requirement. The only acceptable form of cost sharing is a hard match, meaning cash, by the recipient. In-kind contributions, also known as soft matches, are not acceptable for the recipient's cost-share requirement.

Eligible IBSGP applicants shall agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out an IBSGP award in an amount equal to, and not less than, 50% of the total project cost as submitted in the application and approved in the award. If the total project cost is ultimately higher than anticipated and submitted at the time of application, the recipient is responsible for all additional costs. If the total project cost is less than the amount anticipated at the time of award, the recipient must ensure that it matches the federal funds expended with an amount equal to, and not less than, 50% in non-federal funds. The recipient's contribution should be specifically identified for each proposed project. The non-federal contribution has the same eligibility requirements as the federal share and must be justified as part of the project within the IJ.

For example, if the federal award requires a 50% cost share and the total project cost is \$100,000, then:

- Federal share is 50% of \$100,000 = \$50,000
- Recipient cost share is 50% of \$100,000 = \$50,000

With this example, if the total project cost ends up being \$120,000, the federal share would remain at 50% of the original project cost of \$100,000 (i.e., \$50,000).



Conversely, if the total project cost ends up being \$80,000, then federal share would be \$40,000 rather than \$50,000. In that case, the recipient would owe FEMA this \$10,000 as the difference between the 50% cost share under the original project cost versus the decreased actual project cost.

These cash, hard-match contributions must consist of eligible costs and must be identified as part of the submitted application. A cash match includes cash spent for project-related costs. The cost match requirement for the IBSGP award may not be met by funds from another federal grant or assistance program or funds used to meet matching requirements for another federal grant or assistance program, unless otherwise permitted by federal statute. Additionally, normal routine operational costs cannot be used as a cost match unless a completely new capability is being awarded. Please see 2 C.F.R. § 200.306, as applicable, for additional guidance regarding cost matching.

## D. Application and Submission Information

### 1. Key Dates and Times

#### a. Application Start Date:

04/16/2024

#### b. Application Submission Deadline:

06/24/2024 at 5 p.m. ET

All applications **must** be received by the established deadline.

FEMA's Grants Outcomes System (FEMA GO) automatically records proof of timely submission and the system generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives the application. The individual with the AOR role that submitted the application will also receive the official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission. For additional information on how an applicant will be notified of application receipt, see the subsection titled "Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission" in Section D of this NOFO.



**FEMA will not review applications that are received after the deadline or consider these late applications for funding.** FEMA may, however, extend the application deadline on request for any applicant who can demonstrate that good cause exists to justify extending the deadline. Good cause for an extension may include technical problems outside of the applicant’s control that prevent submission of the application by the deadline, other exigent or emergency circumstances, or statutory requirements for FEMA to make an award.

**Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify FEMA as soon as possible and before the application deadline.** Failure to timely notify FEMA of the issue that prevented the timely filing of the application may preclude consideration of the award. “Timely notification” of FEMA means the following: prior to the application deadline and within 48 hours after the applicant became aware of the issue.

A list of FEMA contacts can be found in Section G of this NOFO, “DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information.” For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, please contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at [femago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov) or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time (ET). For programmatic or grants management questions, please contact your Preparedness Officer or Grants Management Specialist. If applicants do not know who to contact or if there are programmatic questions or concerns, please contact [fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov), Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET.

**c. Anticipated Funding Selection Date:**

No later than August 23, 2024

**d. Anticipated Award Date:**

No later than September 30, 2024

**e. Other Key Dates**

Event	Suggested Deadline for Completion
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Obtaining Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Obtaining a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN)	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Creating an account with login.gov	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering in SAM or updating SAM registration	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering Organization in FEMA GO	Prior to beginning application
Submitting complete application in FEMA GO	One week before actual submission deadline

## 2. Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

## 3. Address to Request Application Package

Applications are processed through the FEMA GO system. To access the system, go to <https://go.fema.gov/>.

## 4. Requirements: Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and Register in the System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant, unless they have a valid exception under 2 CFR §25.110, must:

1. Be registered in Sam.Gov before application submission.
2. Provide a valid UEI in its application.





3. Continue to always maintain an active SAM registration with current information during the federal award process. Note: Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.300, subrecipients are NOT required to go through the full SAM registration process. First-tier subrecipients (meaning entities receiving funds directly from the recipient) are only required to obtain a UEI through SAM, but they are not required to complete the full SAM registration in order to obtain a UEI. Recipients may not make subawards unless the subrecipient has obtained and provided the UEI.

Lower-tier subrecipients (meaning entities receiving funds passed through by a higher-tier subrecipient) are not required to have a UEI and are not required to register in SAM. Applicants are also not permitted to require subrecipients to complete a full registration in SAM beyond obtaining the UEI.ss.

## **5. Steps Required to Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier, Register in the System for Award Management (SAM), and Submit an Application**

Applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Applicants are encouraged to register early as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines. Please review the table above for estimated deadlines to complete each of the steps listed. Failure of an applicant to comply with any of the required steps before the deadline for submitting an application may disqualify that application from funding.

To apply for an award under this program, all applicants must:

1. Apply for, update, or verify their UEI number and Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service;
2. In the application, provide an UEI number;
3. Have an account with [login.gov](https://login.gov);
4. Register for, update, or verify their SAM account and ensure the account is active before submitting the application;
5. Register in FEMA GO, add the organization to the system, and establish the AOR. The organization's electronic business point of contact (EBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema->



[go/startup](#);

6. Submit the complete application in FEMA GO; and
7. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. As part of this, applicants must also provide information on an applicant's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the last three years, if applicable.

Applicants are advised that FEMA may not make a federal award until the applicant has complied with all applicable SAM requirements. Therefore, an applicant's SAM registration must be active not only at the time of application, but also during the application review period and when FEMA is ready to make a federal award. Further, as noted above, an applicant's or recipient's SAM registration must remain active for the duration of an active federal award. If an applicant's SAM registration is expired at the time of application, expires during application review, or expires any other time before award, FEMA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.110(c)(2)(iii), if an applicant is experiencing exigent circumstances that prevents it from obtaining an UEI number and completing SAM registration prior to receiving a federal award, the applicant must notify FEMA as soon as possible by contacting [fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov) and providing the details of the circumstances that prevent completion of these requirements. If FEMA determines that there are exigent circumstances and FEMA has decided to make an award, the applicant will be required to obtain an UEI number, if applicable, and complete SAM registration within 30 days of the federal award date.

## 6. Electronic Delivery

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. DHS encourages or requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov, depending on the funding opportunity.



For this funding opportunity, FEMA requires applicants to submit applications through FEMA GO.

## 7. How to Register to Apply

### a. General Instructions:

Registering and applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Read the instructions below about registering to apply for FEMA funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

**The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete.** To ensure an application meets the deadline, applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission.

Organizations must have an UEI number, an EIN, and an active SAM registration to apply for a federal award under this funding opportunity.

### b. Obtain an UEI Number:

All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI number. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the applicable data entry field on the SF-424 form.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to: [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)

### c. Obtain Employer Identification Number

All entities applying for funding must provide an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The EIN can be obtained from the IRS by visiting:

<https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

### d. Create a login.gov account:



Applicants must have a login.gov account in order to register with SAM or update their SAM registration. Applicants can create a login.gov account here:

[https://secure.login.gov/sign\\_up/enter\\_email?request\\_id=34f19fa8-14a2-438c-8323-a62b99571fd3](https://secure.login.gov/sign_up/enter_email?request_id=34f19fa8-14a2-438c-8323-a62b99571fd3).

Applicants only have to create a login.gov account once. For applicants that are existing SAM users, use the same email address for the login.gov account as with SAM.gov so that the two accounts can be linked.

For more information on the login.gov requirements for SAM registration, refer to: <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/loginFAQ.jsf>.

#### **e. Register with SAM:**

All applicants applying online through FEMA GO must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent an applicant from completing the application in FEMA GO. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Organizations will be issued a UEI number with the completed SAM registration.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: <https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/Register/RegisterWithSAM.htm>.

Note: Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.200, applicants must also provide the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the last three years, if applicable.

#### **i. Additional SAM Reminders**

Existing SAM.gov account holders should check their account to make sure it is "ACTIVE." SAM registration should be completed at the very beginning of the application period and should be renewed annually to avoid being "INACTIVE." **Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain an UEI number and then to register in SAM. It may be four weeks or more after an applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, and then it may be an additional 24 hours before FEMA's system recognizes the information.**



It is imperative that the information applicants provide is correct and current. Please ensure that your organization's name, address, and EIN are up to date in SAM and that the UEI number used in SAM is the same one used to apply for all other FEMA awards. Payment under any FEMA award is contingent on the recipient's having a current SAM registration.

## ii. Help with SAM

The SAM quick start guide for new recipient registration and SAM video tutorial for new applicants are tools created by the General Services Administration (GSA) to assist those registering with SAM. If applicants have questions or concerns about a SAM registration, please contact the Federal Support Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do> or call toll free (866) 606-8220.

## f. Register in FEMA GO, Add the Organization to the System, and Establish the AOR:

Applicants must register in FEMA GO and add their organization to the system. The organization's electronic business point of contact (EBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/startup>.

Note: FEMA GO will support only the most recent major release of the following browsers:

- Google Chrome
- Internet Explorer
- Mozilla Firefox
- Apple Safari
- Microsoft Edge

Users who attempt to use tablet type devices or other browsers may encounter issues with using FEMA GO.

## 8. Submitting the Application

Applicants will be prompted to submit the standard application information and any program-specific information required as described in Section D.10 of this NOFO,



“Content and Form of Application Submission.” The Standard Forms (SF) may be accessed in the Forms tab under the <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family>. Applicants should review these forms before applying to ensure they have all the information required.

After submitting the final application, FEMA GO will provide either an error message or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the AOR that submitted the application. Applicants using slow internet connections, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before FEMA GO receives your application.

For additional application submission requirements, including program-specific requirements, please refer to the subsection titled “Content and Form of Application Submission” under Section D of this NOFO.

## **9. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission**

All applications must be completed in FEMA GO by the application deadline. FEMA GO automatically records proof of timely submission and the system generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives the application. The individual with the AOR role that submitted the application will also receive the official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission on the date and time that FEMA GO received the application.

**Applicants who experience system-related issues will be addressed until 3:00 PM ET on the date applications are due.** No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline. Applications not received by the application submission deadline will not be accepted.

## **10. Content and Form of Application Submission**

### **a. Standard Required Application Forms and Information**

Generally, applicants have to submit either the non-construction forms (i.e., SF-424A and SF-424B) or construction forms (i.e., SF-424C and SF-424D), meaning that applicants that only have construction work and do not have any non-construction work need only submit the construction forms (i.e., SF-424C and SF-



424D) and not the non-construction forms (i.e., SF-424A and SF-424B), and vice versa. However, applicants who have both construction and non-construction work under this program need to submit both the construction and non-construction forms.

The following forms or information are required to be submitted via FEMA GO. The Standard Forms (SF) are also available at <https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family>.

- **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**
- **Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying**
- **SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction)**
  - **For construction under an award, submit SF-424C, Budget Information (Construction),** in addition to or instead of SF-424A
- **SF-424B, Standard Assurances (Non-Construction)**
  - **For construction under an award, submit SF-424D, Standard Assurances (Construction),** in addition to or instead of SF-424B
- **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

#### **b. Program-Specific Required Forms and Information**

The following program-specific forms or information are required to be submitted in [FEMA GO](#):

- Associated Investment Justification (IJ)
- Associated detailed budget
- VASP certification statement

#### **i. Priority Investments**

##### **Cybersecurity**

Cybersecurity investments must support core capabilities as they relate to achieving target capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to acts of terrorism. Additional resources and information regarding cybersecurity and cybersecurity performance goals are available through the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Cross-Sector Cybersecurity Performance Goals](#), and the [National Institute of Standards and](#)



## Technology.

### **Soft Targets and Crowded Places**

Soft targets and crowded places are increasingly appealing to terrorists and other violent extremist actors because of their relative accessibility and the large number of potential targets. This challenge is complicated by the prevalent use of simple tactics and less sophisticated attacks. Segments of our society are inherently open to the general public, and by nature of their purpose do not incorporate strict security measures. Given the increased emphasis by terrorists and other violent extremist actors to leverage less sophisticated methods to inflict harm in public areas, it is vital that the public and private sectors collaborate to enhance security of locations such as transportation centers, parks, restaurants, shopping centers, special event venues, and similar facilities. Additional resources and information regarding securing soft targets and crowded places are available through the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#)

### **ii. Investment Justification**

As part of the FY 2024 IBSGP application process, applicants must develop a single formal IJ that addresses the initiative being proposed for funding, including Management and Administration (M&A) costs. The IJ must demonstrate how proposed activities address gaps and deficiencies (identified in a current vulnerability assessment) in current programs and capabilities, and link to one or more core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal. Please see [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for the IJ template.

The applicant may attach the vulnerability assessment or cite relevant sections/passages within the IJ to demonstrate the linkage between the project request and the identified vulnerability. The IJ should also describe the applicant's current security posture to demonstrate why the proposed project is necessary and appropriate. The IJ must demonstrate the ability to provide enhancements consistent with the purpose of the program and guidance provided by DHS/FEMA.

IBSGP projects must be: 1) both feasible and effective at reducing the risks for which the project was designed, and 2) able to be fully completed within the two-year period of performance. Applicants must ensure that the IJ is consistent with





all requirements outlined in this NOFO. Applicants must provide information in the following categories for their single proposed investment:

1. Background
2. Strategic and Program Priorities
3. Impact
4. Funding/Implementation Plan

Applicants must use the following file naming convention when submitting their IJ as part of the FY 2024 IBSGP:

***Organization\_Name\_Project\_Name***

**Failure to adhere to the naming convention above may result in your application being considered ineligible.**

### **iii. Detailed Budget**

Applicants must provide a detailed budget for the funds requested. The detailed budget must be submitted with the grant application as a file attachment within FEMA GO. The budget must be complete, reasonable, and cost-effective in relation to the proposed project. The budget should provide the basis of computation of all project-related costs, any appropriate narrative, and a detailed justification of M&A costs. Applicants receiving funds may not obligate, expend, or draw down funds until budgets and budget narratives have been approved by DHS/FEMA. The budget detail worksheet may be used as a guide to assist applicants in the preparation of budgets and budget narratives. ***Note: Design and Planning/Engineering costs must be clearly identified in a separate line item in order for partial funding to be released prior to Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) review and approval.*** Please see the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information on the EHP review process.

Detailed budgets must be submitted with the grant application as a file attachment within FEMA GO. Applicants must use the following file naming convention when submitting detailed budgets as part of the FY 2024 IBSGP application process:

***Organization\_Name\_Budget\_Name***



**Failure to adhere to the naming convention above may result in your application being considered ineligible.**

#### **iv. Sensitive Security Information (SSI) Requirements**

A portion of the information that is routinely submitted in the course of applying for funding, reporting under certain programs, or that is provided in the course of an entity's grant management activities under those programs that are under federal control may be subject to protection under an SSI marking and must be properly identified and marked accordingly. SSI is a control designation used by DHS/FEMA to protect transportation security-related information. It is applied to information about security programs; vulnerability and threat assessments; screening processes; technical specifications of certain screening equipment and objects used to test screening equipment; and equipment used for communicating security information relating to air, land, or maritime transportation. Further information can be found at 49 C.F.R. Part 1520, Protection of Sensitive Security Information.

For the purposes of the IBSGP, and due to the high frequency of SSI found in IBSGP IJs, all IBSGP IJs shall be considered SSI and treated as such until they have been subject to review for SSI by DHS/FEMA. Therefore, applicants shall label all application documents as SSI in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1520.13.

#### **11. Intergovernmental Review**

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372

(See <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>; [Intergovernmental Review \(SPOC List\) \(whitehouse.gov\)](#))

#### **12. Funding Restrictions and Allowable Costs**

All costs charged to awards covered by this NOFO must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, unless otherwise indicated in the NOFO, the terms and conditions of the award, or the Preparedness Grants Manual. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred, and products and services must be



delivered, within the period of performance of the award. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(h) (referring to budget periods, which for FEMA awards under this program is the same as the period of performance).

Federal funds made available through this award may be used for the purpose set forth in this NOFO, the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#), and the terms and conditions of the award and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Award funds may not be used for matching funds for any other federal awards, lobbying, or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal Government or any other government entity. See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for more information on funding restrictions and allowable costs.

#### **a. Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunication Equipment or Services**

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information on prohibitions on expending FEMA award funds for covered telecommunications equipment or services.

#### **b. Pre-Award Costs**

Pre-award costs are not allowable and will not be approved, with the exception of costs resulting from pre-award grant writing services provided by an independent contractor that shall not exceed \$1,500 per applicant per year.

#### **c. Management and Administration (M&A) Costs**

M&A costs are allowed by the 2024 DHS Appropriations Act. Recipients may use up to 5% of the amount of the award for their M&A. M&A activities are those defined as directly relating to the management and administration of IBSGP funds, such as financial management and monitoring. M&A expenses must be based on actual expenses or known contractual costs. Requests that are simple percentages of the award, without supporting justification, will not be allowed, or considered for reimbursement.



M&A costs are not operational costs but are necessary costs incurred in direct support of the federal award or as a consequence of it, such as travel, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part-time staff in direct support of the program. As such, M&A costs can be itemized in financial reports. Other M&A cost examples include preparing and submitting required programmatic and financial reports, establishing and/or maintaining equipment inventory, documenting operational and equipment expenditures for financial accounting purposes; responding to official informational requests from state and federal oversight authorities; and grant performance measurement or evaluation activities. If an applicant uses an outside consultant or contractor to provide pre-award grant writing services or post-award grant management services, additional considerations and restrictions shall apply as detailed in Section D.12.f “Other Direct Costs” below.

#### **d. Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs**

Indirect (F&A) costs (IDC) mean those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. IDC are allowable by the recipient [and subrecipients] as described in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.414. Applicants with a current negotiated IDC rate agreement who desire to charge indirect costs to a federal award must provide a copy of their IDC rate agreement with their applications. Not all applicants are required to have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement. Applicants that are not required to have a negotiated IDC rate agreement but are required to develop an IDC rate proposal must provide a copy of their proposal with their applications. Applicants who do not have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement (including a provisional rate) and wish to charge the de minimis rate must reach out to FEMA for further instructions. Applicants who wish to use a cost allocation plan in lieu of an IDC rate proposal must reach out to the FEMA Point of Contact for further instructions. As it relates to the IDC for subrecipients, a recipient must follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.332 and 200.414 in approving the IDC rate for subawards. For information on procedures for establishing indirect cost rates, see the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

#### **e. Evaluation Costs**



Evaluation costs are allowable. See Section H.2 “Program Evaluation” for more details.

## **f. Other Direct Costs**

Costs generally need to fit within one of the categories listed below to be allowable under this program. Applicants who have questions about whether a potential cost is allowable or not under this program should contact their Preparedness Officer.

Specific investments made in support of the funding priorities in the annual program NOFO generally fall into one of the following allowable expense categories:

- Planning;
- Operational Activities;
- Equipment and Capital Projects;
- Training and Awareness Campaigns; and
- Exercises.

The following provides guidance on allowable costs within each of these areas:

### **i. Planning**

*Planning activities address the Soft Targets/Crowded Places; Cybersecurity; and Planning Priorities.*

Relevant program funds may be used for the following types of planning activities:

1. Development and enhancement of system-wide security risk management plans that ensure the continuity of essential functions, to include cyber;
2. Development or further strengthening of continuity plans, response plans, station action plans, risk assessments, and asset-specific remediation plans;
3. Development or further strengthening of security assessments, including multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional partnerships and conferences to facilitate planning activities;
4. Hiring of full or part-time staff and contractors or consultants to assist with planning activities only to the extent that such expenses are for the allowable activities within the scope of the grant (not for the purpose of hiring public



- safety personnel); hiring of contractors/consultants must follow the applicable federal procurement requirements at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327;
5. Materials required to conduct planning activities;
  6. Conducting risk and resilience assessments on increasingly connected cyber and physical systems, on which security depends, using the [Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework](#) and related CISA resources;
  7. Planning activities related to alert and warning capabilities; and
  8. Other project planning activities with prior approval from FEMA.

## ii. Operational Activities

*Operational Activities should address the Soft Targets/Crowded Places Priority.*

FEMA encourages applicants to develop innovative operational approaches to enhance the security of transportation systems. Examples include:

1. Establishing or improving emergency communication systems linking drivers and over-the-road buses to company operation centers, law enforcement agencies or emergency response personnel;
2. Acquiring and installing equipment or systems that collect, store or exchange passenger and/or driver information with established government databases for security purposes; and
3. Implementing and operating established methodologies for screening passengers, their carry-on baggage, and/or their checked baggage, for weapons and/or explosives.

## iii. Equipment and Capital Projects

*Equipment and Capital Projects should address the Soft Targets/Crowded Places; Cybersecurity; and Equipment/Capital Projects Priorities.*

### Equipment – Vehicle/Driver Security Enhancements

Vehicle Security Enhancements focus on vehicle disabling and anti-theft devices, real-time bus inventory and inventory control, tracking, monitoring, alert, and warning capabilities, and locating technologies. Driver security enhancements focus on protection for the bus driver to prevent would-be terrorists from immobilizing the driver and/or hijacking the bus. Applicants are discouraged from submitting projects that propose the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) alone



as an on-board deterrent to terrorism. Rather, any cameras should have the capability and protocols in place for incident-based real-time monitoring. CCTV Systems that are primarily archival, and do not clearly specify the ability for live monitoring in the Investment Justification (IJ) will not be funded.

## Capital Projects – Facility Security Enhancements

- Projects related to physical security enhancements at bus stations, or operator-owned facilities including but not limited to lighting, security cameras, security screening equipment for people and baggage, and access control (e.g., fences, gates, barriers);
- Projects related to cybersecurity of access control, sensors, security cameras, badge/ID readers, Industrial Control System (ICS)/Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, process monitors and controls, etc. or passenger/vehicle/cargo security screening equipment support. Cybersecurity assessments are allowable; and
- Full or Part-Time Staff or Contractors/Consultants. Full or part-time staff or contractors/consultants may be hired to support security enhancement-related activities. Personnel hiring, overtime, and backfill expenses are permitted under this grant only to the extent that such expenses are for the allowable activities within the scope of the grant. Hiring of contractors/consultants must follow the applicable federal procurement requirements at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327.

***Note: All Capital and Vehicle/Driver security enhancement projects that include cameras, video surveillance, or alarm systems MUST either be live monitored 24/7 or have the capability for real-time incident-based monitoring. CCTV Systems that are primarily archival and do not clearly specify the ability for live monitoring in the IJ will not be funded.***

## Equipment Acquisition

IBSGP funds must comply with FEMA Policy 207-22-0002, Prohibited or Controlled Equipment Under FEMA Awards, and may be used for the following categories of equipment. A comprehensive listing of allowable equipment categories and types is found in the Authorized Equipment List (AEL). These costs include:

- Personal protection equipment;



- Explosive device mitigation and remediation equipment;
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) operational search and rescue equipment, or logistical support equipment;
- Interoperable emergency communications equipment;
- Detection equipment;
- Terrorism incident prevention equipment; and
- Physical security enhancement equipment.
  1. **Training Topics.** Priority topics include active shooter training, security training for employees, and public awareness/preparedness campaigns. For IBGSP, the IJ narrative for Training should include:
    - A course syllabus, curriculum, or topic plan identifying the proposed course material and contents; and
    - Recipients may purchase equipment not listed on the AEL, but only if they first seek and obtain prior approval from FEMA.

Unless otherwise noted, equipment must be certified as meeting required regulatory and DHS- adopted standards to be eligible for purchase using these funds. Equipment must comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act requirement for certification of electrical equipment by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and demonstrate compliance with relevant DHS-adopted standards through a supplier’s declaration of conformity with appropriate supporting data and documentation per International Organization for Standardization/International Electro-technical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17050, Parts One and Two. Agencies must have all necessary certifications and licenses for the requested equipment, as appropriate, prior to the request.

In addition, recipients that are using IBGSP funds to support emergency communications equipment activities must comply with the [SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants](#), including provisions on technical standards that ensure and enhance interoperable communications. For more information about SAFECOM, see the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

## Cybersecurity Projects

Program funds may be used for projects that enhance the cybersecurity of: Access controls, sensors, security cameras, badge/ID readers, ICS/SCADA systems, process monitors and controls (such as firewalls, network segmentation, predictive security cloud, etc.); and passenger/vehicle/cargo security screening





equipment (cybersecurity assessments are allowable).

When requesting funds for cybersecurity, applicants are encouraged to propose projects that would aid in implementation of all or part of the [Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, Version 1.1](#) (the “Framework”) developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Framework gathers existing international standards and practices to help organizations understand, communicate, and manage their cyber risks. For organizations that do not know where to start with developing a cybersecurity program, the Framework provides initial guidance. For organizations with more advanced practices, the Framework offers a way to improve their programs, such as better communication with their leadership and suppliers about management of cyber risks.

DHS’s Enhanced Cybersecurity Services (ECS) program is an example of a resource that assists in protecting U.S.-based public and private entities and combines key elements of capabilities under the “Detect” and “Protect” functions to deliver an impactful solution relative to the outcomes of the Cybersecurity Framework.

Specifically, ECS offers intrusion prevention and analysis services that help U.S.-based companies and SLTT governments defend their computer systems against unauthorized access, exploitation, and data exfiltration. ECS works by sourcing timely, actionable cyber threat indicators from sensitive and classified Government Furnished Information (GFI). DHS then shares those indicators with accredited Commercial Service Providers (CSPs). Those CSPs in turn use the indicators to block certain types of malicious traffic from entering a company’s networks. Groups interested in subscribing to ECS must contract directly with a CSP to receive services. Please visit <http://www.cisa.gov/enhanced-cybersecurity-services-ecs> for a current list of ECS CSP points of contact.

## **Capital (Construction) Projects Guidance**

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for more information about IPR Program Capital (Construction) Projects Guidance.

### **iv. Training and Awareness Campaigns**



*Training and Awareness Campaigns address the Soft Targets/Crowded Places; Cybersecurity; and Training and Awareness Campaign Priorities.*

## **Training**

Program funds may be used for the following training activities:

1. **Training Topics.** Priority topics include active shooter training, security training for employees, and public awareness/preparedness campaigns. For IBGSP, the IJ narrative for Training should include:
  1. A course syllabus, curriculum, or topic plan identifying the proposed course material and contents; and
  2. The total cost of the training course, the number of participants, and the cost per participant breakdown.
2. **Training Workshops.** Grant funds may be used to plan and conduct training workshops to include costs related to planning, meeting space and other meeting costs, facilitation costs, materials and supplies, travel, and training plan development. Recipients are strongly encouraged to use free public space/locations/facilities, whenever available, prior to the rental of space/locations/facilities. Training should provide the opportunity to demonstrate and validate skills learned, as well as to identify any gaps in these skills. Any training or training gaps, including those for children and individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs, should be identified in an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) and addressed in the training cycle.
3. **Hiring of Full or Part-Time Staff or Contractors/Consultants.** Full or part-time staff or contractors/consultants may be hired to support training-related activities. Hiring of contractors/consultants must follow the applicable federal procurement requirements at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327. Reimbursement of these costs should conform with the policies of the state or local unit of government or the awarding agency, whichever is applicable. Such costs must be included within the funding allowed for program management personnel expenses, which must not exceed 10% of the total allocation. Dual compensation is unallowable. That is, an employee of a unit of government may not receive compensation from their unit or agency of government and from an award for a single period of time (e.g., 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.), even though such work may benefit both activities. Personnel hiring, overtime, and



**FEMA**

backfill expenses are permitted under this grant only to the extent that such expenses are for the allowable activities within the scope of the grant.

4. **Overtime and Backfill Costs.** The entire amount of overtime costs, including payments related to backfilling personnel, that are the direct result of attendance at FEMA and approved training courses and programs are allowable. Reimbursement of these costs should follow the policies of the state or local u§(s) of government or the awarding agency, whichever is applicable. In no case is dual compensation allowable.
5. **Travel.** Domestic travel costs (e.g., airfare, mileage, per diem, and hotel) are allowable as expenses by employees who are on travel status for official business related, approved training, subject to the restrictions at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. International travel is not an allowable expense.
6. **Supplies.** Supplies, items that are expended or consumed during the course of the planning and conduct of the training projects (s) (e.g., gloves and non-sterile masks), are allowable expenses.
7. **Funds Used to Develop, Deliver, and Evaluate Training,** including costs related to administering the training, planning, scheduling, facilities, materials and supplies, reproduction of materials, and equipment are allowable expenses. Training should provide the opportunity to demonstrate and validate skills learned, as well as to identify any gaps in these skills. Any training or training gaps, including those for children and individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs, should be identified in the AAR/IP and addressed in the training cycle.
8. **Developing New Courses.** Recipients are encouraged to use existing training rather than developing new courses. When developing new courses, recipients are encouraged to apply the Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation (ADDIE) model of instructional design. Information on FEMA-approved training can found at [First Responder Training System](#).
9. **Other Items.** These costs include the rental of space/locations for planning and conducting training, badges, etc. Recipients are encouraged to use free public space/locations, whenever available, prior to the rental of space/locations.

## Awareness Campaigns

Program funds may be used for the development and implementation of awareness campaigns to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and



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terrorism-related crime and for associated efforts to increase the sharing of information with public and private sector partners, including nonprofit organizations. DHS currently sponsors or supports a number of awareness campaigns. Please review materials, strategies, and resources at <https://www.dhs.gov/dhs-campaigns> before embarking on the development of an awareness campaign for local constituencies and stakeholders.

**Note: DHS requires that all public and private sector partners wanting to implement and/or expand the DHS “If You See Something, Say Something®” campaign (“campaign”) using grant funds work directly with the DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE). This will help ensure that the awareness materials (e.g., videos, posters, trifolds, etc.) remain consistent with DHS’s messaging and strategy for the campaign and compliant with the initiative’s trademark, which is licensed to DHS by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Coordination with OPE, through the campaign’s office ([seesay@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:seesay@hq.dhs.gov)), must be facilitated by the FEMA HQ Preparedness Officer.**

## v. Exercises

*Exercise activities address the Soft Targets/Crowded Places; Cybersecurity; and Exercises Priorities.*

Program funds may be used for the following exercise activities:

- 1. Funds Used to Design, Develop, Conduct and Evaluate an Exercise.** This includes costs related to planning, meeting space, and other meeting costs, facilitation costs, materials and supplies, travel, and documentation. Exercises afford organizations the opportunity to validate plans and procedures, evaluate capabilities, and assess progress toward meeting capability targets in a controlled, low risk setting. Any shortcoming or gap identified, including those for children and individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs, should be identified in an effective corrective action program that includes development of improvement plans that are dynamic documents, with corrective actions continually monitored and implemented as part of improving preparedness through the exercise cycle.
- 2. Hiring of Full or Part-Time Staff or Contractors/Consultants.** Full or part-time staff may be hired to support exercise-related activities. In order to be



eligible for reimbursement, the costs for hiring staff must conform to the policies of the non-federal entity and federal statutes, where applicable. See, e.g., 2 C.F.R. § 200.430(a). The costs for hiring contractors or consultants must comply with the applicable federal procurement standards at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327. The costs for hiring staff, consultants, or contractors to support exercise-related activities costs must be included within the funding allowed for program management personnel expenses, which must not exceed 10% of the total allocation. Dual compensation is never allowable, meaning, in other words, that an employee of a unit of government may not receive compensation from their unit or agency of government and from an award for a single period of time (e.g., 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.), even though their work may benefit both entities. Personnel hiring, overtime, and backfill expenses are permitted under this grant only to the extent that such expenses are for the allowable activities within the scope of the grant.

3. **Overtime and Backfill Costs.** The entire amount of overtime costs, including payments related to backfilling personnel, which are the direct result of time spent on the design, development and conduct of exercises are allowable expenses. These costs are allowed only to the extent the payment for such services is in accordance with the policies of the state or unit of local government and has the approval of the state or the awarding agency, whichever is applicable. Dual compensation is never allowable.
4. **Travel.** Domestic travel costs are allowable as expenses by employees who are on travel status for official business related to the planning and conduct of exercise project(s), subject to the restrictions at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. International travel is not an allowable expense.
5. **Supplies.** Supplies are items that are expended or consumed during the course of the planning and conduct of the exercise project(s) (e.g., gloves, non-sterile masks, and disposable protective equipment).
6. **Other Items.** These costs include the rental of space/locations for exercise planning and executing, rental of equipment, etc. Recipients are encouraged to use free public space/locations/facilities, whenever available, prior to the rental of space/locations/facilities. These also include costs that may be associated with inclusive practices and the provision of reasonable accommodations and modifications to provide full access for children and adults with disabilities.



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## **vi. Construction and Renovation**

Construction and renovation costs for modifying terminals, garages, and facilities, including terminals and other over-the-road bus facilities owned by state or local governments, to enhance their security are allowed under this program. All proposed construction and renovation activities must undergo an EHP review, including approval of the review from FEMA, prior to undertaking any action related to the project. Failure of a grant recipient to meet these requirements may jeopardize Federal funding. For more information, please reference the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

## **vii. Backfill, Overtime, and Hiring**

Backfill, overtime, and hiring costs are allowed under this program only as described in this NOFO.

## **viii. Travel**

Domestic travel costs are allowed under this program only as described in this NOFO. International travel is not an allowable cost under IBSGP.

## **xi. Maintenance and Sustainment**

Maintenance- and sustainment-related costs, such as maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees are allowable. For more information, please reference the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

## **x. Authorized Use of Contractual Grant Writers and/or Grant Managers**

A grant applicant may procure the services of a contractor to provide support and assistance for pre-award grant development services (grant writing) or post-award grant management and administrative services (grant management). As with all federal grant-funded procurements, grant writer or grant management services must be procured in accordance with the federal procurement standards at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327. See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) section regarding procurement integrity, particularly the sections applicable to non-state entities that discuss organizational conflicts of interest under 2 C.F.R. § 200.319(b) and traditional conflicts of interest under 2 C.F.R. §



200.318(c)(1). States must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements of its non-federal funds, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.317, which also applies 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.321, 200.322, 200.323, and 200.327.

As applicable to non-state entities, DHS/FEMA considers a contracted grant writer to be an agent of the recipient for any subsequent contracts the recipient procures under the same federal award in which the grant writer provided grant writing services. Federal funds and funds applied to the award's cost share generally cannot be used to pay a contractor to carry out the work if that contractor also worked on the development of such specifications unless the original contract was properly procured and included both grant writing and grant management services in the solicitation's scope of work.

As applicable to all non-federal entities, regardless of whether an applicant or recipient uses grant writing and/or grant management services, the recipient is solely responsible for the fiscal and programmatic integrity of the grant and its authorized activities and expenditures. The recipient must ensure adequate internal controls, including separation of duties, to safeguard grant assets, processes, and documentation, in keeping with the terms and conditions of its award, including this NOFO, and 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

## **Grant Writers**

Grant writing contractors may assist the applicant in a variety of ways, including preparing, writing, and finalizing grant application materials and assisting the applicant with handling online application and submission requirements in FEMA GO. Ultimately, however, the applicant that receives an award is solely responsible for all grant award and administrative responsibilities.

By submitting the application, applicants certify that all of the information contained therein is true and an accurate reflection of the organization, and that regardless of the applicant's intent, the submission of information that is false or misleading may result in actions by DHS/FEMA. These actions include, but are not limited to, the submitted application not being considered for award, temporary withholding of funding under the existing award pending investigation, or referral to the DHS Office of the Inspector General.



To assist applicants with the cost of grant writing services, DHS/FEMA is permitting a one-time pre-award cost of no more than \$1,500 per applicant per year for contractual grant writing services as part of the recipient's M&A costs. This is only intended to cover costs associated with a grant writer and may not be used to reimburse the applicant for their own time and effort in the development of a grant application. Additionally, the applicant may be required to pay this fee with its own funds during the application preparation and submission period; if the applicant subsequently receives an award, the applicant may then request to be reimbursed once grant funds become available for that cost, not to exceed \$1,500. If the applicant does not receive an award, this cost will not be reimbursed by the Federal Government. The applicant must understand this risk and be able to cover this cost if an award is not made.

If an applicant intends to request reimbursement for this one-time pre-award cost, it must include this request in its application materials, including in the Budget Detail Worksheet for the IJ. Failure to clearly identify this as a separate cost in the application may result in its disallowance. This is the only pre-award cost eligible for reimbursement. Recipients must maintain grant writer fee documentation including, but not limited to: a copy of the solicitation, such as a quote request, rate request, invitation to bid, or request for proposals, if applicable; a copy of the grant writer's contract agreement; a copy of the invoice or purchase order; and a copy of the canceled check or proof of payment. These records must be made available to DHS/FEMA upon request.

***Consultants or contractors are not permitted to be the AOR or the SA of the recipient.*** Further, an application must be officially submitted by 1) a ***current employee, personnel, official, staff, or leadership*** of the non-federal entity; and 2) ***duly authorized to apply*** for an award on behalf of the non-federal entity at the time of application.

## **Grant Managers**

Grant management contractors provide support in the day-to-day management of an active grant and their services may be incurred as M&A costs of the award. Additionally, recipients may retain grant management contractors at their own expense.





**Consultants or contractors are not permitted to be the AOR or the SA of the recipient.** The AOR is responsible for submitting programmatic and financial performance reports, accepting award packages, signing assurances and certifications, and submitting award amendments.

## **Restrictions Regarding Grant Writers and Grant Managers**

Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. Part 180, recipients may not use federal grant funds to reimburse any entity, including a grant writer or preparer, if that entity is presently suspended or debarred by the Federal Government from receiving funding under federally funded grants or contracts. Recipients must verify that a contractor is not suspended or debarred from participating in specified federal procurement or non-procurement transactions pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 180.300. FEMA recommends recipients use SAM.gov to conduct this verification. Furthermore, regardless of whether any grant writer fees were requested, as applicable to non-state entities, unless a single contract covering both pre- and post-award services was awarded to the grant writer and procured in compliance with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327, federal funds and funds applied to the award's cost share cannot be used to pay the grant writer to provide post-award services.

### **g. Excess Funds**

After completing the initial project proposed in the recipient's application, some recipients may have unexpended funds remaining in their budgets. These excess funds may result from any combination of under-budget acquisition activities or competitive *procurement processes*. ***In such cases, excess funds must be returned to FEMA upon project completion. Please also see Section C of this NOFO regarding cost-share requirements, including the implications if the project costs are less than what was applied for.***

### **h. Unallowable Costs**

Specific unallowable costs include:

- Grant funds must comply with [FEMA Policy 207-22-0002, Prohibited or Controlled Equipment Under FEMA Awards](#), and may not be used for the purchase of the following equipment: firearms, ammunition, grenade launchers,



bayonets, or weaponized aircraft, vessels, or vehicles of any kind with weapons installed;

- General-use facility expenditures, to include, but not limited to ordinary facility maintenance, contracts for maintenance, and specifically backup or emergency generators;
- General vehicle maintenance, service contracts, or warranties. This is different from maintenance and sustainment costs that are allowable, but only for projects funded under a grant award. For projects or equipment not funded by the grant award, general maintenance, service contracts, and warranties are not allowable;
- Expenditures for items such as general-use software (word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, etc.), general-use computers and related equipment (other than for allowable M&A activities, or otherwise associated preparedness or response functions), general-use vehicles, licensing fees, recurring operating costs (e.g., cell phone services, maintenance contracts);
- Organizational operating expenses;
- Personnel costs, to include, but not limited to, overtime and backfill (except as detailed above);
- Activities unrelated to the completion and implementation of the IBSGP;
- Other indirect costs (meaning property purchase, depreciation, or amortization expenses);
- Initiatives in which federal agencies are the beneficiary or that enhance federal property;
- Initiatives which study technology development;
- Proof-of-concept initiatives;
- Initiatives that duplicate capabilities being provided by the Federal Government;
- Other items not in accordance with the AEL, in accordance with [FEMA Policy 207-22-0002, Prohibited or Controlled Equipment Under FEMA Awards](#), or not previously listed as allowable costs; and
- Pre-award costs are not allowable and will not be approved, with the exception of costs resulting from pre-award grant writing services provided by an independent contractor that shall not exceed \$1,500, as detailed in the “Pre-Award Costs” section above.

## **i. Other Allowable Costs**

### **i. Bonds**



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Financial markets are not always predictable, and commercial suppliers are not always reliable; but there are options to provide resource contingencies to support an IBSGP award.

### **Prepayment Bond**

Prepayment Bonds provide a measure of economic security for an organization that is going to advance funds to a vendor(s). The prepayment bond generally may be obtained through the vendor or bank. The prepayment bond protects funds in the event a vendor fails to perform (e.g., not finishing/delivering contracted service/equipment, or going out of business). Prepayment bonds are chargeable to an award.

### **Encouraged Prepayment Bond**

Recipients are strongly recommended, but not required, to obtain a prepayment bond for awarded acquisition activities that exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) (currently \$250,000, but the applicable dollar threshold will be the SAT amount in place at the time of procurement) when recipients are contractually required to advance a down payment and when such advances contain no federal funds (only local funds).

### **Required Prepayment Bond**

Per 2 C.F.R. § 200.304(b), recipients are required to obtain a prepayment bond for awarded acquisition activities that exceed the SAT; a prepayment bond is required when recipients are contractually required to advance a down payment and when such advances contain only federal funds or a combination of federal and local funds.

### **Fidelity Bond**

Reasonable costs of fidelity bonds (or like insurance as provided for by applicable state or tribal laws) covering the maximum amount of IBSGP funds the officer, official, or employee handles at any given time for all personnel who disburse or approve disbursement of IBSGP funds may be allowable if required by the terms and conditions of the award or if generally required by the tribe in its general operations. If a fidelity bond is required by a recipient in its general operations,



those costs must be charged as indirect costs. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.427.

## E. Application Review Information

### 1. Application Evaluation Criteria

#### a. Programmatic Criteria

FY 2024 IBSGP applications will be evaluated through a review process for completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, and anticipated effectiveness of the proposed investments. Applicants can score a maximum of 100 points in this evaluation process. Applications requesting funds will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

- Scope of work (purpose and objectives of the project, identification of what is being protected);
- Desired outcomes, including expected long-term impact where applicable;
- Summary of status of planning and design accomplished to date (e.g., included in a capital improvement plan); and
- Project schedule.

**Funding Guidelines.** The IJ should provide details on specific needs to be addressed, vision, goals, and objectives. It should also provide evidence of how the project fits into an overall effort to meet critical infrastructure security requirements, and how the investment provides a significant security impact.

*Possible Review Panel Funding Guidelines Score: 0-20 points*

**Cost effectiveness.** Projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on the expected impact on security relative to the investment. The IJ should provide quantitative evidence of the security impact, as well as justification for the strategic use of the proposed budget. The project cost levels should be commensurate with the security impact, and the proposed solution should be reasonable and advantageous over other possible solutions.

*Possible Review Panel Cost Effectiveness Score: 0-15 points*



**Ability to reduce risk of catastrophic events.** Projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on their ability to reduce risk. The IJ should demonstrate an ability to reduce risk, providing quantitative evidence of the project's security impact, potential consequences of not funding the project, and a strategy to address specific risk areas. The IJ should also reflect robust regional coordination and an investment strategy that institutionalizes regional security strategy integration in the nation's highest risk metropolitan areas.

*Possible Review Panel Risk Reduction Score: 0-35 points*

**Sustainability without additional federal funds and leveraging of other funding.**

Projects will be evaluated and prioritized regarding the extent to which they exhibit a likelihood of success, or continued success, without requiring additional federal assistance.

*Possible Review Panel Sustainability Score: 0-10 points*

**Timelines.** Projects will be evaluated and prioritized on the ability of the applicant to complete the proposed project within submitted timelines. The IJ should provide a timeline and demonstrate evidence of ability to complete the project within the submitted timeline based on proposed strategy, identified implementation challenges, management and resource plan, and reasonableness of anticipated schedule.

*Possible Review Panel Timelines Score: 0-10 points*

**Risk to critical infrastructure.** The FY 2024 IBSGP will use risk-based prioritization consistent with DHS policy. This score is calculated using a risk process developed and maintained by TSA and provided separately in accordance with proper SSI handling protocol. Scores from TSA are informed by their risk methodology ranking, the relative risk of high-risk UASI urban areas, and giving higher priority to those applicants with routes passing through underwater tunnels.

*Possible Review Panel Critical Infrastructure Score: 0-10 points*



**National Priority Areas.** Projects that sufficiently address one or more of the two National Priority Areas (enhancing cybersecurity or enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places) will have their final scores increased by a multiplier of 20%.

*Possible Review Panel National Priorities Score: Increase by a multiplier of 20%*

## **b. Financial Integrity Criteria**

Prior to making a federal award, FEMA is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3354, as enacted by the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-117 \(2020\)](#); 41 U.S.C. § 2313; and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206 to review information available through any Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of governmentwide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, including whether SAM.gov identifies the applicant as being excluded from receiving federal awards or is flagged for any integrity record submission. FEMA may also pose additional questions to the applicant to aid in conducting the pre-award risk review. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

- i. Financial stability.
- ii. Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards.
- iii. History of performance in managing federal award.
- iv. Reports and findings from audits.
- v. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

## **c. Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review**

Prior to making a federal award where the anticipated total federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently \$250,000:

- i. FEMA is required by 41 U.S.C. § 2313 and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206(a)(2) to review and consider any information about the applicant, including information on the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors, if



applicable, that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through the System for Award Management (SAM), which is currently the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System](#) (FAPIIS).

ii. An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.

iii. FEMA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.206.

## 2. Review and Selection Process

Recipients must comply with all administrative requirements described herein, including the submission of the IJ, budget, and other application materials as required. Having met all administrative requirements, the application will be scored based on a methodology that will ensure consistent and accurate evaluations of projects and proposals. The following process will be used to make awards for the program:

- DHS/FEMA will verify compliance with each of the administrative and eligibility criteria identified in the NOFO.
- Eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by the National Review Panel which is composed of subject matter experts from the Department of Transportation, Transportation Security Administration, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Each panelist will independently review each application and score it based on the above criteria using a standard scoring sheet.
- The panel will meet to review and compare scores and discuss project scoring criteria. Each panelist will then confirm their final scores. Panelist scores will be averaged to obtain scores for each criterion on each project. Consensus is not required.
- DHS/FEMA will calculate a total score for each project. The total score will consist of the sum of the Funding Guidelines score (0-20), Cost Effectiveness score (0-15), Risk Reduction score (0-35), Sustainability score (0-10), Timelines score (0-10), and Risk to Critical Infrastructure score calculated by TSA (0-10).  
***As stated above, proposed projects that sufficiently address one or more***



***of the National Priority Areas will receive an additional 20% score increase.***

- The National Review Panel results, scoring summary, and funding recommendations will be compiled and reviewed for approval by the Secretary of Homeland Security, who has final funding discretion.

DHS/FEMA may conduct additional pre-award vetting of proposed recipients, to include whether any of the bus companies have been declared an “imminent hazard” or fined by either the federal or any state department of transportation.

DHS/FEMA HQ Grants Management Specialists will conduct financial review using the following criteria:

- Allowability, allocability, and financial reasonableness of the proposed budget and investment information, and
- Whether a recipient meets the financial and legal requirements listed in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **1. Notice of Award**

Before accepting the award, the AOR and recipient should carefully read the award package. The award package includes instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under federal awards. By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the prerequisites stated in this NOFO and the material terms and conditions of the federal award, should they receive an award. **Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO and the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) as well as any specific terms and conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.**

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information on Notice of Award.

FEMA will provide the federal award package to the applicant electronically via FEMA GO. Award packages include an Award Letter, Summary Award Memo, Agreement Articles, and Obligating Document. An email notification of the award package will be sent through FEMA’s grant application system to the AOR that





submitted the application.

Recipients must accept their awards no later than 60 days from the award date. The recipient shall notify FEMA of its intent to accept and proceed with work under the award through the FEMA GO system.

Funds will remain on hold until the recipient accepts the award through the FEMA GO system and all other conditions of the award have been satisfied or until the award is otherwise rescinded. Failure to accept a grant award within the specified timeframe may result in a loss of funds.

## **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

In addition to the requirements of in this section and in this NOFO, FEMA may place specific terms and conditions on individual awards in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

In addition to the information regarding DHS Standard Terms and Conditions and Ensuring the Protection of Civil Rights, see the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for additional information on administrative and national policy requirements, including the following:

- Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance
- FirstNet
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation
- SAFECOM

### **a. DHS Standard Terms and Conditions**

All successful applicants for DHS grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, which are available online at: [DHS Standard Terms and Conditions](#).

The applicable DHS Standard Terms and Conditions will be those in effect at the time the award was made. [What terms and conditions will apply for the award will be clearly stated in the award package at the time of award.](#)

### **b. Ensuring the Protection of Civil Rights**



As the Nation works towards achieving the [National Preparedness Goal](#), it is important to continue to protect the civil rights of individuals. Recipients and subrecipients must carry out their programs and activities, including those related to the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities, in a manner that respects and ensures the protection of civil rights for protected populations.

Federal civil rights statutes, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, along with DHS and FEMA regulations, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, limited English proficiency, or economic status in connection with programs and activities receiving [federal financial assistance](#) from FEMA, [as applicable](#).

The DHS Standard Terms and Conditions include a fuller list of the civil rights provisions that apply to recipients. These terms and conditions can be found in the [DHS Standard Terms and Conditions](#). Additional information on civil rights provisions is available at <https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/equal-rights/civil-rights>.

Monitoring and oversight requirements in connection with recipient compliance with federal civil rights laws are also authorized pursuant to 44 C.F.R. Part 7 [or other applicable regulations](#).

In accordance with civil rights laws and regulations, recipients and subrecipients must ensure the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.

### **c. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance**

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information on EHP compliance.

### **d. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation**

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information about NIMS implementation.

### **e. Mandatory Disclosures**



The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. (2 CFR 200.113)

Please note applicants and recipients may report issues of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or other criminal or noncriminal misconduct to the [Office of Inspector General \(OIG\) Hotline](#). The toll-free numbers to call are 1 (800) 323-8603, and TTY 1 (844) 889-4357.

### **3. Reporting**

Recipients are required to submit various financial and programmatic reports as a condition of award acceptance. Future awards and funds drawdown may be withheld if these reports are delinquent.

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information on reporting requirements.

### **4. Monitoring and Oversight**

The regulation at 2 C.F.R. § 200.337 provides DHS and any of its authorized representatives with the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the recipient [and any subrecipients] that are pertinent to a federal award in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts. The right also includes timely and reasonable access to the recipient's or subrecipient's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents. Pursuant to this right and per 2 C.F.R. § 200.329, DHS may conduct desk reviews and make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems to evaluate project accomplishments and to provide any required technical assistance. During site visits, DHS may review a recipient's or subrecipient's files pertinent to the federal award and interview and/or discuss these files with the recipient's or subrecipient's personnel. Recipients and subrecipients must respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to a federal award.

See the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for information on monitoring and oversight.



## **G. DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information**

### **1. Contact and Resource Information**

#### **a. Program Office Contact**

FEMA has assigned region-specific Preparedness Officers for the IBSGP. If you do not know your Preparedness Officer, please contact FEMA Grants News by phone at (800) 368-6498 or by email at [fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET.

#### **b. FEMA Grants News**

**FEMA Grants News is a non-emergency comprehensive management and information resource developed by FEMA for grants stakeholders. This channel provides general information on all FEMA grant programs and maintains a comprehensive database containing key personnel contact information at the federal, state, and local levels. When necessary, recipients will be directed to a federal point of contact who can answer specific programmatic questions or concerns. FEMA Grants News can be reached by e-mail at [fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov) OR by phone at (800) 368-6498, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET.**

#### **c. Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Award Administration Division**

GPD's Award Administration Division (AAD) provides support regarding financial matters and budgetary technical assistance. Additional guidance and information can be obtained by contacting the AAD's Help Desk via e-mail at [ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov).

#### **d. Equal Rights**

The FEMA Office of Equal Rights (OER) is responsible for compliance with and enforcement of federal civil rights obligations in connection with programs and services conducted by FEMA and recipients of FEMA financial assistance. All inquiries and communications about federal civil rights compliance for FEMA



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grants under this NOFO should be sent to [FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov)

## E. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation

GPD's EHP Team provides guidance and information about the EHP review process to recipients and subrecipients. All inquiries and communications about GPD projects under this NOFO or the EHP review process, including the submittal of EHP review materials, should be sent to [gpdehpinfo@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:gpdehpinfo@fema.dhs.gov).

## 2. Systems Information

### a. FEMA GO

For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, please contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at [femago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov) or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET.

## H. Additional Information

GPD has developed the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) to guide applicants and recipients of grant funding on how to manage their grants and other resources. Recipients seeking guidance on policies and procedures for managing preparedness grants should reference the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) for further information. Examples of information contained in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) include:

- Actions to Address Noncompliance
- Audits
- Case Studies and Use of Grant-Funded Resources During Real-World Incident Operations
- Community Lifelines
- Conflicts of Interest in the Administration of Federal Awards and Subawards
- Disability Integration
- National Incident Management System



- Payment Information
- Period of Performance Extensions
- Procurement Integrity
- Record Retention
- Termination Provisions
- Whole Community Preparedness
- Report issues of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
- Hazard Resistant Building Codes
- Other Post-Award Requirements

## 1. Termination Provisions

FEMA may terminate a federal award in whole or in part for one of the following reasons. FEMA and the recipient must still comply with closeout requirements at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.344-200.345 even if an award is terminated in whole or in part. To the extent that subawards are permitted under this NOFO, pass-through entities should refer to 2 C.F.R. § 200.340 for additional information on termination regarding subawards. Note that all information in this Section H.1 “Termination Provisions” is repeated in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).

### a. Noncompliance

If a recipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of a federal award, FEMA may terminate the award in whole or in part. If the noncompliance can be corrected, FEMA may first attempt to direct the recipient to correct the noncompliance. This may take the form of a Compliance Notification. If the noncompliance cannot be corrected or the recipient is non-responsive, FEMA may proceed with a Remedy Notification, which could impose a remedy for noncompliance per 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, including termination. Any action to terminate based on noncompliance will follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.341-200.342 as well as the requirement of 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(c) to report in FAPIIS the recipient’s material failure to comply with the award terms and conditions. See also the section on Actions to Address Noncompliance in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#).



## **b. With the Consent of the Recipient**

FEMA may also terminate an award in whole or in part with the consent of the recipient, in which case the parties must agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date, and in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.

## **c. Notification by the Recipient**

The recipient may terminate the award, in whole or in part, by sending written notification to FEMA setting forth the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. In the case of partial termination, FEMA may determine that a partially terminated award will not accomplish the purpose of the federal award, so FEMA may terminate the award in its entirety. If that occurs, FEMA will follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.341-200.342 in deciding to fully terminate the award.

## **2. Program Evaluation**

Federal agencies are required to structure NOFOs that incorporate program evaluation activities from the outset of their program design and implementation to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards meeting agency priority goal(s) and program outcomes.

[OMB Memorandum M-21-27](#), Evidence-Based Policymaking: Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans, implementing Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-435 (2019) (Evidence Act), urges federal awarding agencies to use program evaluation as a critical tool to learn, improve equitable delivery, and elevate program service and delivery across the program lifecycle. Evaluation means “an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency.” Evidence Act, § 101 (codified at 5 U.S.C. § 311).

As such, recipients and subrecipients are required to participate in a DHS-, Component, or Program Office-led evaluation if selected, which may be carried



out by a third-party on behalf of the DHS, its component agencies, or the Program Office. Such an evaluation may involve information collections including but not limited to surveys, interviews, or discussions with individuals who benefit from the federal award program operating personnel, and award recipients, as specified in a DHS-, component agency-, or Program Office-approved evaluation plan. More details about evaluation requirements may be provided in the federal award, if available at that time, or following the award as evaluation requirements are finalized. Evaluation costs incurred during the period of performance are allowable costs (either as direct or indirect). Recipients and subrecipients are also encouraged, but not required, to participate in any additional evaluations after the period of performance ends, although any costs incurred to participate in such evaluations are not allowable and may not be charged to the federal award.

### **3. Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure**

#### **a. Build America, Buy America Act**

Recipients and subrecipients must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA), which was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act §§ 70901-70927, Pub. L. No. 117-58 (2021); and Executive Order 14005, Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers. See also 2 C.F.R. Part 184 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-24-02, Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure.

None of the funds provided under this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in that infrastructure are produced in the United States.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and





furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

For FEMA's official policy on BABAA, please see FEMA Policy 207-22-0001: Buy America Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure available at [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_build-america-buy-america-act-policy.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_build-america-buy-america-act-policy.pdf) To see whether a particular FEMA federal financial assistance program is considered an infrastructure program and thus required to include a Buy America preference, please see [Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov.](#) and [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_build-america-buy-america-act-policy.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_build-america-buy-america-act-policy.pdf) ,

## **b. Waivers**

When necessary, recipients (and subrecipients through their pass-through entity) may apply for, and FEMA may grant, a waiver from these requirements.

A waiver of the domestic content procurement preference may be granted by the agency awarding official if FEMA determines that:

- Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest.
- The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality.
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

For FEMA awards, the process for requesting a waiver from the Buy America preference requirements can be found on FEMA's website at: ["Buy America" Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure | FEMA.gov.](#)



### **c. Definitions**

For BABAA specific definitions, please refer to the FEMA Buy America website at: [“Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov.”](#)

Please refer to the applicable DHS Standard Terms & Conditions for the BABAA specific term applicable to all FEMA financial assistance awards for infrastructure.

### **4. Report issues of fraud, waste, abuse**

Please note, when applying to this notice of funding opportunity and when administering the grant, applicants may report issues of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or other criminal or noncriminal misconduct to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline. The toll-free numbers to call are 1 (800) 323-8603, and TTY 1 (844) 889-4357.

### **Footnotes**

1. Homeland Security Act of 2002: Report Together with Minority and Dissenting Views 222, Select Committee on Homeland Security: 107th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives (2002) (H. Rpt. 107-609).

