Office of the Governor – Homeland Security Grants Division
2017 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
Request for Applications (RFA) for
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA)

The Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that support state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events and prepare for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of Texas citizens. HSGD provides funding to implement investments that build, sustain, and deliver the 32 core capabilities essential to achieving a secure and resilient state.

Purpose: Per Congressional mandate (911 Act), twenty-five percent (25%) of the combined Homeland Security Grant Program funding must be spent on Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA).The purpose of this solicitation is to support state, tribal and local preparedness activities that continue to build law enforcement capabilities to prevent terrorist attacks and provide law enforcement and public safety communities with funds to support critical prevention and protection activities. All LETPA investments must be consistent with capability targets set during the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process, and gaps identified in the State Preparedness Report (SPR).

The SHSP-LETPA is intended to support investments that improve the ability of jurisdictions to:

- **Prevent** a threatened or an actual act of terrorism; and/or
- **Protect** its citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards.

Prevention is defined as the capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism.

Many activities which support the achievement of target capabilities related to terrorism preparedness may simultaneously support enhanced preparedness for other hazards unrelated to acts of terrorism. However, **all SHSP-LETPA projects must assist grantees in achieving target capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, or protecting against acts of terrorism.**

Available Funding: Federal funds are authorized under Section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended (Pub. L. No. 107-296), (6 U.S.C. 603). State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the United States Department of Homeland Security. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Funding Levels:
Minimum: $2,500
Maximum for Local and Regional projects: None
Maximum for State Agency projects: None. However, it should be noted that HSGD expects to make available approximately $2 million dollars to state agencies in support of 10 – 20 projects under this solicitation and the SHSP Regular solicitation.
Maximum for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdictions that did not receive a direct allocation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): $450,000 for Fusion Center projects.

Match Requirement: None

Standards: Grantees must comply with the requirements applicable to this funding source cited in the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements* for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200); and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Prohibitions: Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:
1) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
2) lobbying;
3) any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
4) vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use and/or do not have a clear nexus to terrorism prevention and protection (i.e. mobile data terminals, body cameras, in-car video systems, radios, or radar units, etc. for officers assigned to routine patrol; general firefighting equipment or uniforms);
5) weapons, ammunition, tracked armored vehicles, weaponized vehicles or explosives (exceptions may be granted when explosives are used for bomb squad training);
6) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
7) promotional gifts;
8) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments, except for eligible per diem associated with grant-related travel or where pre-approved for working events;
9) membership dues for individuals;
10) any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project;
11) any use of grant funds to replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-grant sources;
12) fundraising;
13) legal services for adult offenders;
14) amateur radios and equipment, FMS radios, GMRS radios, or other radio equipment that is not P25 compliant;
15) regular or preventative maintenance of communications equipment or infrastructure; and
16) any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

Eligible Applicants:
1) State agencies;
2) Regional councils of governments
3) Units of local government;
4) Nonprofit organizations;
5) Universities or Colleges; and
6) Federally recognized Native American tribes.

Eligible Activities:

1) Grant projects must be consistent with the [Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Information Bulletin (IB) 412](#) which discusses eligible activities outlined in:

   a. The [National Prevention Framework](#);

   b. The [National Protection Framework](#) where capabilities are shared with the prevention mission area;

   c. Section 2006 of the [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#), as amended; and

   d. The [FY 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit](#).

2) Grant projects must address one of the following approved activity areas:

   a. Fusion Centers

      i. Funding support for a recognized fusion center (please refer to http://www.dhs.gov/fusion-center-locations-and-contact-information).

      ii. Must directly align to and reference any capability gaps identified during the center's most recent individual Fusion Center Assessment Report.

      iii. Facilitating the implementation of plans and procedures to work in conjunction with the Texas Joint Crime Information Center, and achieve and maintain baseline capabilities for Major Urban Area Fusion Centers.

      iv. Implementing suspicious activity reporting tools for fusion centers.

      v. Urban Areas Security Initiative jurisdictions that are no longer separately funded will be allowed to submit a request for the Regionally Recognized Fusion Center in their jurisdiction directly to HSGD.

   b. Intelligence and Information Sharing (Non-Fusion Center requests)

      i. Identifying, developing, providing, and sharing timely, accurate, and actionable information, data, or knowledge among government or private sector entities.

      ii. Enabling interdiction and disruption of terrorist activity through enhanced understanding and recognition of pre-operational activity and other crimes that may be precursors or indicators of terrorist activity.

      iii. Paying for personnel or contractors to serve as qualified intelligence analysts and/or to participate in information, investigative, and intelligence sharing activities specifically related to homeland security.

      iv. Assessing threat information to inform continued prevention operations and ongoing response activities.

      v. Implementing and maintaining suspicious activity reporting initiatives.

      vi. Implementing or sustaining public information and warning systems to relay information regarding terrorism threats.

   c. Interoperable Communications

      i. Building capabilities to meet P-25 standards.

      ii. Sustaining existing capabilities (e.g. life cycle replacement of equipment primarily used for LETPA).

      iii. Projects must enhance current capabilities or address capability gaps identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) or Texas Interoperable Communications Coalition (TxICC) in either the Texas Statewide Interoperability Plan (SCIP) or DPS Report on Interoperable Communications to the Texas Legislature. Note: Projects to increase voice

communications interoperability for counties with the lowest interoperability levels are preferred over other types of communications projects.

    iv. Prior to purchase, planned expenditures must receive validation from the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC).

    v. Projects for the purchase of radios and similar equipment are only permitted under LETPA when the equipment is for members of special teams and the project narrative outlines how the teams will use the equipment for terrorism prevention/protection activities.

d. Special Response Teams and First Responder Capabilities (including Border Security capabilities)

    i. Sustaining and enhancing capacity to detect chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) devices or weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

    ii. Sustaining and enhancing tactical teams including HAZMAT response and decontamination, Urban Search and Rescue, and SWAT.

    iii. Sustaining equipment needs, including personal protective equipment, WMD pharmaceuticals, calibration and maintenance for WMD-related detection and identification systems, and closely related investments to update or sustain current equipment.

    iv. Sustaining and enhancing efforts to delay, divert, intercept, halt, apprehend, or secure threats or hazards.

    v. Coordinating regional training exercises with federal, state and local law enforcement participation focused on responding to terrorism-related events and increasing participation with community and business organizations.

    vi. Identifying or locating terrorists through active and passive surveillance and search procedures including systematic examinations and assessments, bio-surveillance, sensor technologies, or physical investigation and intelligence.

e. State, Regional and Local Planning

    i. Developing state and regional risk and preparedness assessments.

    ii. Core capability development planning, to include typing and tracking of equipment and special response teams.

    iii. Planning and executing training and exercises focused on law enforcement terrorism prevention.

    iv. Multi-jurisdictional operational planning to include plans for regional operational coordination of terrorism prevention, protection, and response capabilities.

    v. Maintaining or updating Emergency Operations Plans, consistent with guidance in CPG 101.v2 and the whole community approach to security and emergency management.

    vi. Planning for continuity of operations.

f. Operational Coordination

    i. Establishing and maintaining a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that integrates critical stakeholders.

    ii. Implementing WebEOC and other situational awareness and decision support tools.

    iii. Enhancing emergency operations centers.

        iv. Conducting or participating in incident management training and/or exercises.

    g. Critical Infrastructure

        i. Implementing target hardening and other measures associated with increased security at critical infrastructure sites including backfill and overtime to staff emergency operations centers and contracted security at critical infrastructure sites.

        ii. Assessing critical infrastructure vulnerabilities and interdependencies, particularly those involving multiple sites and/or sectors.

3) All capabilities being built or sustained must have a clear linkage to one or more of the following Core Capabilities in the National Preparedness Goal: Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operational Coordination, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Interdiction and Disruption, Screening, Search, and Detection, and Forensics and Attribution.

4) Many capabilities which support terrorism preparedness simultaneously support preparedness for other hazards. Grantees must demonstrate this dual-use quality for any activities implemented under this program that are not explicitly focused on terrorism preparedness. Activities implemented under SHSP must support terrorism preparedness by building or sustaining capabilities that relate to the prevention of, protection from, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from terrorism.

Eligibility Requirements:

1) Grantees are required to maintain adoption and implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS uses a systematic approach to integrate the best existing processes and methods into a unified national framework for incident management across all homeland security activities including prevention, protection, response, mitigation, and recovery. Grantees must use standardized resource management concepts for resource typing, credentialing, and an inventory to facilitate the effective identification, dispatch, deployment, tracking and recovery of resources.

2) Cities and counties must have a current emergency management plan or be a legally established member of an inter-jurisdictional emergency management program with a plan on file with the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Plans must be maintained throughout the entire grant performance period and must be at least at the Intermediate Level. If you have questions concerning your Emergency Management Plan (preparedness) level, contact your Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) or your regional Council of Governments (COG). For questions concerning plan deficiencies, contact TDEM at tdem.plans@dps.texas.gov.

3) In order for an applicant to be eligible, the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2011 through 2015. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2017.

4) Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.

5) Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do).

6) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at https://www.sam.gov/ and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

7) Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

Project Period: Grant-funded projects must begin between September 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018, and expire on or before August 31, 2019. Additional guidelines are noted below:

1) Project periods should be structured so that grant-funded salaries do not overlap with salaries approved in previous or future grant awards.

2) Project periods should be structured so that annual recurring grant-funded expenses are on a 12 **or** 24-month grant cycle.

3) Project periods for equipment only projects are generally awarded for a 6 to 12 month grant period.

4) HSGD will consider proposed start or end dates falling outside of these guidelines on a case-by-case basis.

Application Process:
1) For eligible local and regional projects:
   a) Applicants must contact their applicable regional council of governments (COG) regarding their application.
   b) Each of Texas' 24 COG's holds its own application planning workshops, workgroups, and/or subcommittees and facilitates application prioritization for certain programs within its region. Failure to comply with regional requirements imposed by the COG may render an application ineligible.

2) UASI jurisdictions that do not receive a direct allocation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency may submit an application directly to HSGD for a Regionally Recognized Fusion Center project.

3) State agencies may submit applications directly to HSGD.

4) All applicants must access HSGD's grant management website at https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov to register and apply for funding.

NOTE: Applicants must upload the required Direct Deposit forms, New Payee Identification Form, and W9 Form for each application prior to submission. The eGrants system will not allow an application submission until these forms are attached to the application. These forms are available at https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/updates.aspx under the Financial Management Tools section or by clicking on the hyperlinks above.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be certified via HSGD's grant management website on or before February 28, 2017 by 5:00 PM CST.

Selection Process:
1) For eligible local and regional projects:
   a) The COG's homeland security advisory committee will prioritize all eligible applications based on state priorities, the regional risk-informed methodology, cost and program effectiveness.
   b) HSGD will accept priority listings that are approved by the COG's executive committee.

    c) HSGD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, COG priorities, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

2) For state discretionary projects, applications will be reviewed by HSGD staff members or a review group selected by the director. HSGD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

Contact Information: For technical assistance or additional information, contact HSGD at eGrants@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-8382.