

DHS Grant Program 2011 Blog Series: Day 2

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to release the FY 2011 Grant Guidelines sometime in the next month. Upon release, state and local agencies will have the opportunity to apply for public safety funding. Due to the economic situation many states are facing, including budget cuts and shortfalls, GovWin estimates there will be a lot of competition for public safety grants in FY 2011.

Last year, DHS grant program funding totaled \$2.9 billion. This included the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant (UASI); the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP); the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP); the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG); the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP); and the Emergency Operations Center Grant (EOC). The IECGP and the EOC grant will not be funded in FY 2011.

The total amount of requested funding for FY 2011 is \$3 billion, a 6 percent increase from the previous year. This percentage increase is due in part to Secretary Napolitano's recommended FY 2011 budget increases for the UASI and the SHSGP, a 32 percent and 24 percent increase from FY 2010, respectively. For a program-by-program breakdown, the anticipated grant allocations for FY 2011 are:

- For the UASI, FY 2011 requested funds total \$1.1 billion
- For the SHSGP, FY 2011 requested funds total \$1.05 billion
- For the PSGP, FY 2011 requested funds total \$300 million
- For the AFG, FY 2011 requested funds total \$420 million

The increase in requested funding comes from an overall increase in the market forecast due to a number of factors pressuring state and local public safety agencies to spend more. This includes the FCC mandated narrowbanding requirement, which calls for state and local agencies to upgrade or replace their current communications equipment and systems and old or obsolete technology systems, in addition to ensuring safety of first responders and an increased reliance on new technology to provide more value as other public safety items are cut due to smaller budgets. Roughly 42 percent of states still do not have full-scale interoperable communications networks, and states are constantly working toward full interoperability.

For FY 2010, the top five Department of Homeland Security award recipients are:

- Illinois Emergency Agencies
- State Emergency Food and Shelter Efforts
- The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- The city of Los Angeles
- The Mississippi Department of Public Safety

The Illinois Emergency Agencies received the most funding at \$227 million. These funds are used primarily for communications projects, as those are the biggest, most expensive, and most integral part of public safety departments. For more information on public safety communications, check out GovWin's report [HERE](#). Other spending includes 911, information-sharing systems, records management systems, security, vehicles, video, personnel, and other general IT.

Stay tuned for the last installment of GovWin's DHS Grant Program 2011 Blog Series tomorrow.