

Top Homeland Security Grant Programs for FY 2011: IECGP & EOC Grants

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Finishing out this week's blog series highlighting the top Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant programs for states and localities, today we will cover two grant programs we consider 'honorable mentions.' The Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant have not been allocated any funding, but don't lose sight of them.

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program & Emergency Operations Center Grant

Overview: Both programs are operated out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). **IECGP:** This program aims to provide governance, planning, training and exercise funding to states, territories, and local and tribal governments to carry out initiatives to improve interoperable emergency communications. This includes communications in collective response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. Eligible recipients to apply for IECGP funds include all 56 states and territories. **EOC:** This program aims to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, and interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. Eligible recipients include every governor of each U.S. state and territory. The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only eligible entity able to apply for the available funding on behalf of eligible state, local, and tribal EOCs.

Grant use: **IECGP:** The main focus of the IECGP is to fill gaps in leadership and governance; common operational planning and protocols; and emergency responder skills and capabilities development through training and exercises. These priority groups were identified and deemed critical for advancing interoperable emergency communications in alignment with the criteria established for the Statewide Communications Interoperability Planning (SCIP) process. It is most common for states and localities to directly use IECGP funds to procure equipment and services for their interoperable emergency communications systems. **EOC:** The main focus of the EOC grant program is the renovation of a state, local or tribal governments' principal EOC. Fully capable emergency operations facilities at the state and local levels are an essential element of a comprehensive national emergency management system and are necessary to ensure continuity of operations and government in major disasters caused by any hazard. It is most common for states and localities to directly use these funds to procure equipment and services for their emergency communications center.

Funding history: Currently, the IECGP and EOC grant programs have no FY 2011 requested funding, but that could change. **IECGP:** The allocation methodology for IECGP is determined by the legislation that created the grant program. Per the 9/11 Act, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will receive a minimum of 0.50 percent of the total funds allocated. Four territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands) will receive a minimum allocation of 0.08 percent of the total funds allocated. The remainder of the funds will be based upon a risk methodology. The IECGP is a matching grant that requires a 25 percent nonfederal cost share on all purchases. In FY 2010, \$48 million was appropriated to the IECGP. This number is about the same as what was appropriated in FY 2009. No funding information is available for FY 2011. **EOC:** The EOC Grant program is also considered a matching grant. FEMA recognizes that each state, local and tribal jurisdiction has unique emergency management needs. Through a two-phase state and national review, EOC Grant Program awards are determined based on how well each applicant addressed the following criteria: state-identified priorities, quality of justification and pre-existing planning. In FY 2010, \$57 million was appropriated to the EOC program. This number is about 54 percent higher than what was appropriated in FY 2009. No funding information is available for FY 2011.

Timeline: The IECGP and EOC grant applications are typically released in December.

For more information on the IECGP & EOC grant programs and funding history, please see GovWin's grants tool [HERE](#).