



Why This Matters

Public Law 110-53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, requires the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, to audit individual States' management of State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants. This report responds to the reporting requirement for the State of Mississippi. The audit included a review of \$19.3 million in State Homeland Security Program grants awarded to the State during fiscal years (FY) 2008 through 2010.

DHS Response

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concurred with the 12 recommendations and is taking steps or planning to take steps for corrective actions to address the audit findings.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov

Mississippi's Management of SHSP Grants During FYs 2008 Through 2010

What We Determined

In some instances, the State distributed and spent State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funds in compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. However, the State needs to improve in the following areas to enhance its management of SHSP grants: (1) strategic planning, (2) grant fund allocation, (3) monitoring subgrantee activities and use of purchased equipment, (4) sole source procurements, (5) property management controls and accountability, and (6) personnel time charges.

What We Recommend

We made 12 recommendations to the FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate to require the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security to implement. Some of the recommendations include:

1. Prepare and submit a revised strategy for FEMA's approval using a risk-based process with current, time-limited goals and objectives.
2. Identify and ensure all stakeholders are included in the grant allocation process.
3. Implement the current monitoring process to ensure that subgrantees comply with applicable Federal requirements and that subgrantees use equipment purchased with grant funds only as intended.
4. Ensure that cost analyses are performed for sole-source procurements and review the amounts paid for unjustified sole-source procurements to recover \$329,928 in State Homeland Security Program grants we identified as unallowable costs.
5. Ensure that subgrantees maintain property and inventory records, ensure accountability of sensitive or pilferable equipment, and implement procedures to identify equipment purchased with Homeland Security Grant Program funds.
6. Work with the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a time tracking and payroll distribution process to track employee time by Federal award and recover personnel time charges of \$661,753 for FY 2008 we identified as not supported.