



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' and Territories' management of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants. This report responds to the reporting requirement for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the Commonwealth).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the Commonwealth more than \$4 million in SHSP funds during fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with all nine recommendations, and is taking or planning to take corrective actions to implement the recommendations.

For Further Information:

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

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Management of Homeland Security Grant Program Awards for Fiscal Years 2009 Through 2011

What We Determined

In most instances, the Commonwealth spent grant funds in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. However, we identified several areas in which FEMA and the Commonwealth could improve its management of SHSP grants. Specifically, the Commonwealth needs to revise its State homeland security strategy to include measurable objectives with realistic target dates for completion, perform periodic assessments of improved preparedness, and retain documentation for its vulnerability assessments. The Commonwealth also needs to maintain supporting documentation for travel expenses and to report financial and performance information timely. As a result, the Commonwealth could not fully assess whether SHSP funding enhanced its preparedness and security.

What We Recommend

FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, require the Homeland Security and Emergency Management office to:

- Develop and implement procedures to regularly evaluate, assess, and update the State Homeland Security Strategy, to include current goals and objectives that are specific, measurable, and time-limited to serve as the baseline to measure improved preparedness.
- Develop and implement a system of internal controls to routinely gather quantitative and qualitative performance data.
- Perform regular analysis of the gaps, excesses, and deficiencies of its strategy and preparedness, and retain sources of information and documentation used to develop and compile threat and hazard information.
- Develop policies, procedures, and controls to ensure timely submission of all required financial and progress reports.
- Provide support for, or repay, questioned SHSP disbursements for travel expenditures in the amount of \$17,002.