



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 Territory of American Samoa (Territory).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the Territory of American Samoa approximately \$4.1 million in SHSP funds during fiscal years (FY) 2009 through 2011.

DHS Response

FEMA and the Territory concurred with all 17 recommendations, and are 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

American Samoa's Management of Homeland Security Grant Program Awards for Fiscal Years 2009 Through 2011

What We Determined

The Territory did not aggressively manage fiscal years 2009 through 2011 State Homeland Security Program grant funds, did not adequately identify and assess its risks and vulnerabilities, and did not measure its progress in achieving needed capabilities. As of January 25, 2013, only \$204,000 of the \$4,057,280 awarded had been obligated and expended. The Territory also did not comply with Federal requirements regarding training and exercise activities, property management, and accounting for personnel time charges. We questioned costs totaling \$52,292 that resulted from charging fiscal year 2012 management and administration costs against the fiscal year 2008 grant.

What We Recommend

FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, to require the Director, American Samoa Department of Homeland Security to:

- Define staff roles and responsibilities and design and implement an integrated preparedness system that aligns with the priorities and goals of the American Samoa Government and address the components of the National Preparedness System.
- Establish a firm requirement for Homeland Security Advisory Committee and working group meetings to be held at least quarterly, and be fully documented and reviewed.
- Establish grant performance measures so that grant-supported activities can be sufficiently monitored to ensure that performance goals are being achieved, and demonstrate consistency in acquiring needed capabilities or filling capability gaps.
- Seek FEMA's approval to initiate projects in a timely manner after grant award that assures FEMA that the projects have been sufficiently planned with appropriate defined project descriptions, funding allocations by solution area, and project milestones.
- Conduct an annual Training and Exercise Plan Workshop, determine the Territory's training and exercise needs, update the multi-year Training and Exercise Plan each year, identify the stakeholders in exercise activities, and complete a cycle of exercise activity.
- Establish procedures to ensure that all Federal property management requirements are fully implemented, and ensure compliance with Federal requirements concerning the use of grant funds for personnel activity costs.
- Determine the amount of personnel costs which were inappropriately charged to the FYs 2008 through 2011 grants, including \$52,292 in management and administration activities, and adjust the financial records to reflect the appropriate costs by grant year.