

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

April 2014 OIG-14-61

Why This Matters

Public Law 110-53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, as amended, requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) 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 Idaho.

DHS Response

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concurred with all four of the recommendations. FEMA acknowledged the need to improve and update processes and is taking steps or plans to take steps to address the audit findings.

Idaho's Management of Homeland Security Grant Program Awards For Fiscal Years 2010 Through 2012

What We Determined

DHS provides Federal funding through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to help state and local agencies prevent, prepare for, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies. Within DHS, FEMA is responsible for administering the HSGP. The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) falls under the HSGP.

We conducted this audit to determine whether Idaho used SHSP grant funds in accordance with the law, program guidance, state homeland security strategies, and other applicable plans. We also addressed the extent to which funds awarded enhanced the ability of Idaho grantees to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies. FEMA awarded Idaho about \$14.5 million in SHSP grants for fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

In most instances, Idaho distributed, administered, and spent SHSP grant funds in compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. However, Idaho could improve its grant oversight, its progress measures for preparedness improvements, and the timeliness of obligating grant funds.

What We Recommend

We recommend that FEMA require the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS) to 1) develop a regular monitoring plan and schedule to ensure that subgrantees comply with Federal requirements for maintaining grant records, 2) ensure that property records include all required data elements and that physical inventories of equipment are conducted, 3) ensure that the state preparedness report contains measurable and quantifiable outcomes, and 4) identify ways to streamline the grant obligation process. We also added that FEMA encourage IBHS to consider developing and implementing a contingency plan that prioritizes core capability requirements and identifies the funding necessary to sustain core preparedness capabilities in case of reduced Federal funding.

For Further Information:

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