



Why This Matters

Public Law 110-53, *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007*, requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General to audit individual states' and territories' management of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants. This report responds to the reporting requirement for the State of Alaska (State).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the State of Alaska approximately \$14.6 million in SHSP grant funds for fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with all six recommendations and will use the findings in the report to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of executing and measuring its progress. FEMA recognized the need to continue to improve the process 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

Alaska's Management of Homeland Security Grant Program Awards for Fiscal Years 2010 Through 2012

What We Determined

Alaska developed written procedures for program administration. The State also ensured that grant expenditures for equipment purchases, planning, training, exercises, and administrative activities were allowable and complied with grant reporting requirements. It linked its homeland security strategy goals and objectives to DHS mission areas in compliance with applicable FEMA guidance. We identified the State's subgrantee application and award processes as best practices.

However, Alaska can improve its homeland security strategies by including target levels of performance and the means to measure progress toward enhancing preparedness at both the state and subgrantee level. The State needs to ensure that 80 percent of grant funds are obligated to local jurisdictions, improve compliance with procurement procedures and documentation requirements, strengthen its subgrantee monitoring by updating its policies and processes, and ensure that updates to policies and manuals include a list of changes.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, require the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to:

- Assess the current processes and procedures for allocating funds to ensure at least 80 percent of Homeland Security Grant Program funds are allocated to subgrantees as required.
- Develop comprehensive performance measurement systems for grant program goals and objectives that include target levels of performance and criteria against which to measure progress toward enhancing preparedness.
- Ensure updates to Alaska's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment include details and descriptions of desired outcomes as required by FEMA guidance.
- Evaluate and update monitoring and oversight policies to ensure policies and procedures align with Federal and state regulations as well as current practices.
- Ensure enforcement of all Federal and state policies and regulations for oversight of Federal grants.
- Ensure that any updated policies or guidance include a list of changes.