

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

Public Law 110-53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, requires the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG), to audit individual States' management of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants. This report responds to the reporting requirements for Iowa.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded Iowa approximately \$14.6 million in SHSP grants during fiscal years (FY) 2010 through 2012. Iowa did not receive UASI grant funds during this period.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with all five recommendations and is taking 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

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

What We Determined

In most instances, Iowa effectively administered its grant program in accordance with program requirements, grant guidance, and applicable regulations. However, the State can improve its grant management practices by (1) ensuring that all procurements are awarded competitively in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, (2) obligating grant funds within the required time period, (3) improving its subgrantees monitoring, and (4) ensuring that subgrantees maintain complete property records.

We questioned \$256,634 in SHSP costs for FYs 2010 through 2012.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the FEMA Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate ensure that Iowa:

- Properly monitors and oversees its subgrantees' procurements to make certain that they comply with applicable Federal procurement regulations.
- Review the noncompetitive procurements to make certain that the subgrantees properly justified them in accordance with applicable Federal procurement regulations. If not, recover the \$256,634 in unallowable SHSP grant funds expenditures.
- Review and update its obligation and approval process to identify ways to shorten the time needed to meet grant obligation requirements.
- Develop and implement a monitoring plan to ensure that subgrantees comply with all Federal and State monitoring guidelines. The monitoring plan should include sample selection methodology and guidance for documenting onsite reviews, and follow-up procedures for recommended corrective actions.
- Ensure that subgrantees maintain property and inventory records in accordance with Federal requirements.