



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' management of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative grants.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the State of New Hampshire \$14.6 million in SHSP grant funds during fiscal years 2010 through 2012. These funds should be used in accordance with Federal grant guidance and regulations.

DHS Response

FEMA concurred with all seven recommendations and implemented corrective action to close one of the recommendations.

New Hampshire's Management of State Homeland Security Program Grants Awarded During Fiscal Years 2010 Through 2012

What We Determined

New Hampshire's Department of Safety Grants Management Unit ensured that grant expenditures for equipment, planning, training, exercises, and administrative activities were allowable and complied with most grant requirements. However, the State could improve the timely award of funding to subgrantees and the pass-through or retention of grant funding for local units of Government, establish timely deadlines to conduct onsite monitoring of subgrantees, comply with regulatory inventory practices, and measure progress and improvements in preparedness.

In addition, FEMA needs to establish a policy for timely review and approval of grant extensions, ensure the State's other centrally managed grants adhere to Federal laws, and provide procedures for the State to measure local preparedness improvements and demonstrate progress as a result of grant funds.

What We Recommend

Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate for FEMA:

1. Require New Hampshire's Grants Management Unit (GMU) to review and update its obligations and approval process to identify ways to abbreviate the process and ensure subgrantees have sufficient time to procure and spend their grant funds.
2. Establish and implement a policy that sets a reasonable timetable for reviewing and making a decision on requests by grantees for grant extensions to ensure that grantees have sufficient time to plan for the end of a grant's period of performance.
3. Direct and ensure that GMU complies with Federal requirements and grant guidance related to sub-awarding funds to local jurisdictions or retaining funds with written consent of locals.
4. Require GMU to establish an internal deadline for site visits during closeout audits.
5. Direct GMU to develop and implement procedures to ensure that inventory records comply with 44 CFR 13.3 and 13.32 regulations.
6. Ensure GMU compiles and provides reconciled fiscal year 2010 through 2012 SHSP inventory records to meet Federal requirements.
7. Provide guidance that can effectively and consistently measure progress at the state and local level and require New Hampshire to develop a process to measure progress.

For Further Information:

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