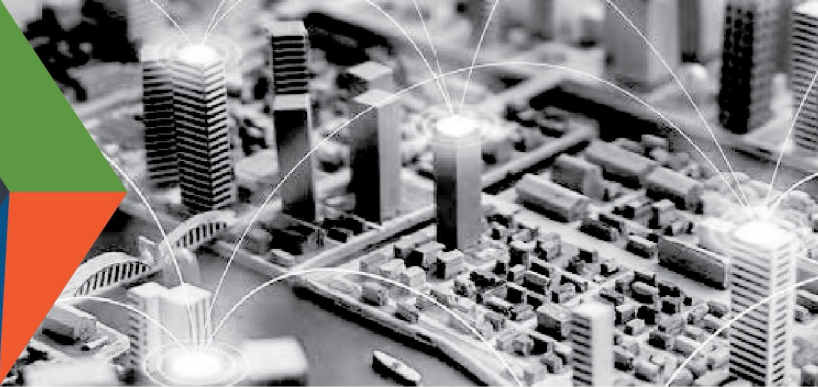




CISA
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE



SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Emergency Communications Stakeholders:

On February 14, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the FY 2020 Preparedness Grants Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs). The NOFOs and ancillary documents are available at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants>. State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) should follow application submission instructions on [Grants.gov](https://www.fema.gov/grants).

Applications are due on April 15, 2020.¹

This letter contains a summary of FY 2020 DHS Preparedness Grant Programs. CISA prepares this summary for stakeholders to assist in developing proposals that align with DHS funding priorities for emergency communications. Stakeholders are strongly encouraged to read this summary and the [SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants](#) (SAFECOM Guidance) before submitting emergency communications proposals for funding.

Please note that CISA is not the administrator for these grants. CISA prepared this summary as a courtesy to its stakeholders. Direct any questions on this summary to ECD@cisa.dhs.gov. Questions on DHS Preparedness Grant Programs can be directed to FEMA's Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk by phone at (800) 366-6498 or by e-mail at askcsid@fema.gov, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

This summary contains the following information:

FY 2020 DHS Preparedness Grants Funding Overview

- Congressional Appropriations
- Key Changes
- Important Dates
- Program Summaries

SAFECOM Guidance Recommendations for Grant Recipients

- Emergency Communications Priorities
- DHS/FEMA Grant Requirements
- Grants Management Best Practices

¹ FY 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application period is now open through March 13, 2020. For more information on Assistance to Firefighters Grant announcements and application deadlines, visit <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

FY 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS FUNDING OVERVIEW

Congressional Appropriations

On December 20, 2019, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, providing discretionary funding for the Federal Government through September 30, 2020. This Act authorized DHS grant funding for the following programs²:

- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
 - State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
 - Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
 - Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)
- Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP)
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)
 - NSGP-Urban Area (NSGP-UA)
 - NSGP-State (NSGP-S)
- Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program
- Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
 - Intercity Passenger Rail (IPR) Program
 - Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP)
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER)
- Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant

Key Changes

The following are congressional actions or key changes of note as compared to previous years:

- The Department has identified four national priorities for FY 2020: 1) Cybersecurity; 2) Soft targets and crowded places; 3) Intelligence and information sharing; and 4) Emerging threats. These priorities reflect the transformation underway in our shared risk environment and threat landscape. Grant recipients are directed and encouraged to invest in the priorities across the Preparedness Grants.
- FEMA streamlined the NOFOs to include information specific to this year's application process. To assist applicants, FEMA developed a second iteration of the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#), providing guidance on grant application, administration, and program management, as well as other resources.
- In accordance with [Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 201, Version 3](#), jurisdictions are required to submit a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) every three years and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) annually. Further reporting guidance will be released in 2020 as some core capabilities have fewer reporting requirements than others.
- Effective August 13, 2020, recipients and subrecipients may not use Preparedness Grant funds provided in FY 2020 or previous years to:
 - Procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain, or enter into a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses "covered telecommunications equipment or services" as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system; or
 - Enter into contracts or extend or renew contracts with entities that use "covered telecommunications equipment or services"³ as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

² While FEMA administers the AFG, SAFER, and FP&S programs, these grants are not considered part of the Preparedness Grants. These programs are included in this letter for stakeholder awareness.

³ Covered telecommunications equipment or services is defined in Section 889(f)(3) of the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019](#) (Public Law 115-91).

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

HSGP Key Changes

- FEMA revised evaluation criteria for the HSGP application process. Effectiveness will be evaluated based on the following five factors: 1) Investment strategy (30 percent); 2) Budget (10 percent); 3) Impact/outcomes (30 percent); 4) Collaboration (30 percent); and 5) Past performance.
- All recipients and sub-recipients are required to complete the [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review](#), which is open from October to December 2020.

SHSP/UASI

- For FY 2020, DHS will award SHSP and UASI funds based on risk and the anticipated effectiveness of the proposed use of grant funds. Targeted allocation ranges are provided for each state based on FEMA's relative risk methodology.
 - States and urban areas are strongly encouraged to apply for funding at least 15 percent over the high end of their target allocation range.
- States, territories, and designated urban areas are required to submit one Investment Justification (IJ) for each of the four national priorities (i.e., cybersecurity, soft targets and crowded places, intelligence and information sharing, and emerging threats). Each of the four priority-aligned IJs must equal or exceed 5 percent of the applicable target allocation. For states that are identified to receive a target allocation in excess of the minimum, the percentage should be calculated against the high end of the target allocation range.
 - In addition, under both the cybersecurity and the soft targets/crowded places priority investments, at least one project must be in support of enhancing election security.
- States and high-risk urban areas that receive funding will be required to prioritize information and intelligence sharing capabilities. As such, fusion centers must ensure and certify they have the necessary technological capacity to access, analyze, and share information, both within their jurisdictions, as well as with other fusion centers across the country.
- The number of eligible urban areas has increased from 31 to 32 with the addition of New Orleans, Louisiana.

OPSG

- Starting in FY 2020, OPSG applicants are required to clearly articulate and identify how their Concept of Operations addresses the following two national priorities:
 - Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies, including DHS; and
 - Addressing emergent threats.

THSGP Key Changes

- Funding for the FY 2020 THSGP has increased from \$10 million to \$15 million.
- DHS has expanded the number of eligible tribes, based on proximity to an international border or coastline. For FY 2020, tribes located within 100 miles of an international border or a coastline along an ocean or an international border may qualify as a directly eligible tribe. Previously, the limit was 50 miles.
- Applicants who sufficiently address one or more of the following national priorities will receive a 20 percent score increase to their investment score:
 - Enhancing cybersecurity;
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places; and
 - Addressing emerging threats.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

NSGP Key Changes

- Funding for the FY 2020 NSGP has increased from \$60 million to \$90 million. Of that amount, \$50 million is allocated to NSGP-UA and \$40 million is allocated to NSGP-S.
- The SAA is required to submit the organization information for all nonprofits that apply to NSGP-UA and NSGP-S using the State Prioritization of Investment Justification form. The form indicates that the SAA either recommends or does not recommend the organization's funding. The SAA should submit only IJs for organizations recommended for funding.
- Bonus points for organizations that have never received NSGP funding have been reduced from 10 points to 5 points. Bonus points are added by FEMA not the SAA.

PSGP Key Changes

- Applicants who sufficiently address the cybersecurity national priority will receive a 20 percent increase to their project scores.
- Guidance in the *Preparedness Grants Manual* has been revised under PSGP section to:
 - Clarify and specify training requirements with emphasis on training dedicated to the enhancement of Maritime Security; and
 - More fully explain allowable personnel costs and maintenance and sustainment activities.

EMPG Key Changes

- FY 2020 EMPG reinforces the authority of the FEMA Regions to ensure that regional priorities are addressed. These authorities include:
 - FEMA Regional Administrators will approve the EMPG workplans for each state;
 - States and territories will work directly with the Regions during workplan development; and
 - Grant funds will be held until the final workplan is approved.

TSGP Key Changes

- Applicants who sufficiently address one or more of the following three national priorities will have their final project scores increased by 20 percent:
 - Enhancing cybersecurity;
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places; and
 - Addressing emerging threats.

IPR Key Changes

- Recipients are required to spend a minimum of 5 percent on the following national priorities:
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places; and
 - Addressing emerging threats.

IBSGP Key Changes

- The period of performance for IBSGP recipients has decreased from 3 years to 2 years. This change will not impact existing awards made in FY 2019 or prior years.
- Applicants who sufficiently address one or more of the following three national priorities will have their final application scores increased by 20 percent:
 - Enhancing cybersecurity;
 - Enhancing the protection of soft targets/crowded places; and
 - Addressing emerging threats.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Important Dates

- February 14, 2020: NOFOs posted to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- April 15, 2020: Grant applications due by 5:00pm EDT
- July 1, 2020: Anticipated funding selection notifications
- September 30, 2020: Anticipated award announcements

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Program Summaries

Table 1 provides a summary of DHS Preparedness Grant Programs and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, including allocated amounts, purpose, eligible applicants, recipients/sub-recipients, and pass through requirements. In addition, it highlights priorities and allowable costs related to emergency communications; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of eligible activities. Please refer to the NOFOs for specific program information.

Table 1. FY 2020 DHS Preparedness Grant Programs Summary

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
HSGP/SHSP (\$415,000,000): Supports the implementation of capability targets established during THIRA process and assessed in SPR	SAA of states and territories	Formula-based: Targeted allocation ranges for each state/territory are listed in the NOFO; No match requirement; Awards will be allocated based on risk and anticipated effectiveness	SAA must pass through 80% to local units of government	Priorities: Building/sustaining core capabilities; continuity of operations; cybersecurity enhancements; law enforcement/terrorism prevention Planning/Organizational: Development, review, and revision of THIRA, SPR, and Continuity of Operations plans; development of whole community partnerships; program management; intelligence analysts Training and Exercises: Related to emergency communications, special events Equipment: Related to interoperable communications Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Communication towers
HSGP/UASI (\$615,000,000): Addresses the risks and needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas based on capability targets identified during THIRA process	SAA on behalf of eligible UASIs	Formula-based: Targeted allocation ranges are listed in the NOFO; No match requirement; Awards will be allocated based on risk and anticipated effectiveness	SAA must pass through 80% to local units of government in the designated UASI	
HSGP/OPSG (\$90,000,000): Promotes coordination among all levels of government and local law enforcement agencies working to secure U.S. borders	SAA on behalf of selected OPSG grant applicant	Competitive: States eligible to apply are listed in the NOFO; No match requirement; Awards will be allocated based on risk and anticipated effectiveness	SAA must pass through 100% to selected local units of government	Costs to increase security along the border: Personnel (up to 50% of award); coordination among jurisdictions, disciplines, various levels of governments (e.g., travel, per diem); operational costs (e.g., overtime, backfill); some equipment/maintenance costs
THSGP (\$15,000,000): Supports the building, sustainment and delivery of core capabilities to enable Tribes to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other hazards	Federally-recognized Tribes	Competitive: Select Federally-recognized Tribes may receive funding following a competitive peer review process; No match requirement	Funds are allocated directly to Federally-recognized Tribes	Priorities: Improving cybersecurity capabilities; National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation; validating capabilities; governance integration; ensuring the protection of civil rights Personnel: 50% cap Planning/Organizational: Prioritizing needs; updating preparedness strategies; allocating resources across stakeholder groups and levels of government; implementing standardized resource management concepts Equipment: Related to interoperable communications, emergency supplies Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Communication towers

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub- Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
<p>NSGP-UA (\$50,000,000): Provides funding support for target hardening activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of terrorist attack and located within one of the UASI-eligible areas</p> <p>NSGP-S (\$40,000,000): Provides funding for nonprofit organizations located outside of FY 2020 UASI-designated urban areas</p>	SAA on behalf of nonprofit organizations within eligible UASIs and any states or territories listed in NSGP-S	<p>NSGP-UA Competitive: Select nonprofit organizations may receive funding following a competitive review process; No match requirement</p> <p>NSGP-S Formula-based: Eligible states receive a targeted allocation for nonprofit organizations; No match requirement</p>	SAA must obligate 100% to selected nonprofit organizations	<p>Priorities: Building core capabilities; cybersecurity; THIRA-based developments; governance integration</p> <p>Planning: Development and enhancement of security plans and protocols; development or further strengthening of security assessments; emergency contingency plans; evacuation/shelter-in-place plans</p> <p>Training: Security-related training courses and programs only</p> <p>Equipment: Physical security and inspection/screening systems only</p> <p>Maintenance and Sustainment: Warranties; repair or replacement costs; upgrades; user fees</p> <p>Construction and Renovation: With restrictions and prior approval from FEMA</p>
EMPG Program (\$355,100,000): Provides funding to states/territories to assist state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards	SAA or Emergency Management Agency; Must belong to Emergency Management Assistance Compact	Formula-based: Amounts for each state/territory are listed in the NOFO; At least 50% match required	100% of the award is designated to the state-level Emergency Management Agency	<p>Priorities: Cybersecurity; building and sustaining core capabilities; NIMS implementation; validating capabilities; reviewing and updating planning products; strengthening governance integration</p> <p>Planning: Developing/updating Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP), Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans, THIRA, SPR, and Continuity of Operations</p> <p>Personnel: Salary, overtime, compensatory time off, associated fringe benefits</p> <p>Training and Exercises: Multi-year program</p> <p>Equipment: Related to interoperable communications</p> <p>Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties, repair or replacement costs, maintenance contracts</p> <p>Construction and Renovation: Communication towers</p>
TSGP (\$88,000,000): Provides funding to eligible owners and operators of transit systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure	Select Transit Agencies	Competitive: Eligible transit agencies are determined based on daily unlinked passenger trips (ridership) and transit systems that serve historically eligible UASIs. Certain ferry systems are eligible to participate; No match requirement	Funds are awarded directly to selected transit agencies	<p>Priorities: Governance integration; cybersecurity enhancements; use of visible, unpredictable deterrence; Top Transit Asset List risk remediation; Regional Transit Security Strategy; addressing emerging threats, including cybersecurity</p> <p>Planning/Organizational: Enhancement of security plans and protocols; regional communications enhancement; resources to facilitate shared situational awareness between public and private sectors</p> <p>Equipment: Related to interoperable communications</p> <p>Maintenance and Sustainment: Maintenance contracts, upgrades, user fees, warranties; repair or replacement costs</p> <p>Construction and Renovation: With restrictions and prior approval from FEMA</p>

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Program (Amount) Purpose	Eligible Applicants	Allocation Method and Eligible Recipients	Pass Through and Eligible Sub-Recipients	Emergency Communications-Related Priorities and Allowable Costs
IPR-Amtrak (\$10,000,000): Provides funding to Amtrak to create a sustainable, risk-based effort to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of the Amtrak rail system	National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak)	Cooperative Agreement between FEMA and Amtrak: All funds are awarded to Amtrak; No match requirement	Funds are awarded to Amtrak; funds are transferred to Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration for disbursement	Priorities: Strengthening governance integration; protection of high-risk, high-consequence underwater and underground rail assets; planning; use of visible, unpredictable deterrence; targeted counter-terrorism training for key front-line staff; emergency preparedness drills and exercises; enhancing cybersecurity Planning: Security plans; protocols; education; outreach Training and Exercises: Crew communication and coordination; emergency preparedness drills and exercises Equipment: Interoperable communications equipment Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Communication towers
IBSGP (\$2,000,000): Provides funding to owners and operators of intercity bus systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure	Owners and operators of fixed route intercity and charter buses that serve UASIs	Competitive: Eligible applicants must complete a vulnerability assessment and develop a security plan; 50% match required	Funds are awarded directly to selected operators	Priorities: Preventing a threatened or an actual act of terrorism; mitigating the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters; building/sustaining core capabilities; governance integration; cybersecurity enhancements Planning: Developing/enhancing security plans and protocols Training and Exercises: Planning; workshops; overtime; backfill; travel Equipment: Facility security; vehicle/drive security, interoperable emergency communications equipment
PSGP (\$100,000,000): Provides funding for transportation infrastructure and operational security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators, and state, territorial, and local agencies	All entities covered by an Area Maritime Security Plan, including 145 specifically identified critical ports	Competitive: Port areas will be selected for funding through a competitive review process; At least 25% match required, either cash or in-kind contribution, for all public sector and non-governmental, nonprofit recipients. At least 50% match required, either cash or in-kind contribution, for all private, for-profit recipients	Funds are awarded directly to selected ports	Priorities: Enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness, improvised explosive device and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive prevention, protection, response and supporting recovery capabilities; cybersecurity; port resilience and recovery Planning/Organizational: Resiliency and recovery activities; activities associated with new and ongoing maritime security operations Equipment: Interoperable communications for Maritime Domain Awareness Maintenance and Sustainment: Upgrades, user fees, warranties Construction and Renovation: Maritime Command and Control Centers; Interagency Operations Centers for maritime security; Port Security Emergency Communications Center; maritime security risk mitigation facilities
AFG (\$315,000,000): Enhances safety of the public and firefighters by assisting fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research	State, local, tribal; fire departments; universities; public health; nonprofits	Competitive: Cost share is based on population	Funds are awarded directly to selected recipients	Operations and Safety Equipment: Project 25-compliant interoperable communications equipment including radios, mobile repeaters, base stations, headsets

SAFECOM GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

As a condition to receiving DHS Preparedness Grants, grant recipients using funds for emergency communications projects must comply with the [SAFECOM Guidance](#). DHS outlined specific requirements for recipients in Appendix D – Compliance Requirements for DHS Grants.

SAFECOM Guidance provides guidance to grant recipients on:

- Recommendations for planning, coordinating, and implementing projects
- Emergency communications activities that can be funded through federal grants
- Best practices, policies, and technical standards that help to improve interoperability
- Resources to help grant recipients comply with technical standards and grant requirements

Before applying for federal funding, *SAFECOM Guidance* encourages grant applicants to review the [National Emergency Communications Plan \(NECP\)](#)⁴ to understand national strategies, as well as their state or territory's SCIP to ensure that proposals support statewide plans. Additionally, applicants should coordinate with state-level emergency communications leaders and governance bodies to ensure that proposals are compatible and interoperable with other projects.

Emergency Communications Priorities

SAFECOM Guidance identifies six investment priorities for emergency communications that grant recipients should target funding toward:

- **Priority 1: Invest in emergency communications governance and leadership structures.** Enhance decision-making, coordination, and planning for emergency communications through strong governance structures and leadership.
- **Priority 2: Conduct planning and procedures.** Update plans and procedures to improve emergency responder communications and readiness in a dynamic operating environment.
- **Priority 3: Invest in emergency communications training, exercises, and evaluation.** Improve responders' ability to coordinate and communications through training, exercises, and evaluation programs that use all available technologies and target gaps in emergency communications.
- **Priority 4: Conduct activities that enhance operational coordination.** Ensure operational effectiveness through the coordination of communications capabilities, resources, and personnel from across the whole community.
- **Priority 5: Invest in standards-based technology and infrastructure.** Coordinate research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to develop innovative emergency communication that support the needs of emergency responders and infrastructure.
- **Priority 6: Invest and maintain cybersecurity risk management.** Invest in solutions that enhance cybersecurity posture by developing and maintaining cybersecurity risk management and identifying and mitigating equipment and protocol vulnerabilities.

⁴ CISA published a second update to the NECP in September 2019 that builds upon revisions made in 2014, while also positioning the NECP to maintain relevance into the future. Updates to the NECP goals and objectives aim to enhance emergency communications capabilities at all levels of government in coordination with the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and communities across the Nation.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

DHS/FEMA Grant Requirements

FEMA developed the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) to guide applicants and recipients of grant funding on how to manage their grants and other resources. Recipients seeking guidance on policies and procedures for managing preparedness grants should reference this manual for further information on both program-specific information, as well as overall guidance on rules and regulations that guide the proper management of grants. The manual includes guidance to complete the following:

- **Implement the [National Preparedness System](#) to improve response capabilities and achieve the [National Preparedness Goal](#).** To support this process, FEMA targets grant funding toward 32 identified [core capabilities](#) that address the greatest risks to the Nation. It is important for stakeholders to understand this process, as proposals for grant funding are required to address gaps identified in FEMA plans and build core capabilities across the [whole community](#).
- **Participate in the [THIRA](#) process to ensure that emergency communications needs are represented and prioritized for funding.** Grant recipients are required to develop and maintain a THIRA. To complete the THIRA, states are required to engage the whole community, leverage current assessments (e.g., after-action reports) and empirical data to define gaps and needs, and set capability targets for core capabilities. In FY 2019, the THIRA requirement was reduced to every three years for all 32 core capabilities. It is important that communities complete the THIRA on a multi-year cycle, as it enables them to assess year-over-year trends in changes to their capabilities, while still periodically reviewing the capability targets to keep them relevant.
- **Develop the annual SPR, which replaces the previous version of the assessment, the State Preparedness Report.** The SPR is a self-assessment of a jurisdiction's current capability levels against the targets identified in the THIRA. Jurisdictions use the SPR to estimate their current preparedness capabilities and compare those to their THIRA results to identify gaps. They also use the SPR to identify potential approaches for addressing those capability gaps.
- **Participate in the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC).** FEMA requires grant recipients to establish or re-establish their SAC to integrate governance structures to assess needs, coordinate investments, and target funding where it is needed most. Under HSGP, Statewide Interoperability Coordinators are named as required members of the SAC, and FEMA recommends that representatives from Statewide Interoperability Governing Bodies be included in the SAC to ensure emergency communications interests are represented and considered for funding.
- **Comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).** In September 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Interim Final Guidance in the Federal Register to establish reporting requirements necessary for the implementation of the FFATA. The FFATA requires OMB to maintain a single, searchable public website that contains information in all federal spending awards. By law, all grant recipients receiving federal awards totaling \$25,000 or more are subject to the FFATA reporting requirements.
- **Complete the [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(NCSR\)](#),** which is open annually from October to December, by the end of calendar year 2020. The NCSR enables agencies to benchmark and measure progress of improving their cybersecurity posture. This review will evaluate cybersecurity maturity across the Nation while providing actionable feedback and metrics directly to the grant applicant. Using the results of the NCSR, DHS will deliver a bi-annual anonymous summary report to Congress, which will provide an overview of the cybersecurity maturity across the state, local, tribal, and territorial communities. The Chief Information Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, or equivalent for each recipient and subrecipient should complete the NCSR. If there is no existing Officer, the most senior cybersecurity professional should complete the assessment.

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 DHS PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

Grants Management Best Practices

CISA recommends the following best practices for grant applicants developing emergency communications proposals. For additional best practices during all phases of the grants cycle—Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award, and Closeout—refer to *SAFECOM Guidance*, Section 6.

- Read the NOFO for program-specific information, eligibility requirements, and application instructions
- Review and understand the NECP, SCIP, and other applicable plans
- Coordinate with state-level governance and leadership (e.g., SAC, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, Statewide Interoperability Governing Body, State Interoperability Executive Committee) to document needs, align projects to plans, and identify funding options
- Work with SAA to include proposed projects in state preparedness reviews (e.g., SPR) and to secure funding
- Review grant requirements included in the NOFO (e.g., NIMS implementation, *SAFECOM Guidance* compliance, matching funds)
- Consult the federal granting agency, spectrum authority (i.e., Federal Communications Commission or First Responder Network Authority), and *SAFECOM Guidance* when developing projects
- Align projects to federal and state-level plans (e.g., SPR, SCIP), assessments (e.g., THIRA), and initiatives
- Include coordination efforts with the whole community in applications
- Identify staff to manage financial reporting and programmatic compliance requirements
- Develop project and budget milestones to ensure timely completion
- Identify performance measures and metrics that will help demonstrate impact
- Consider potential impacts of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation requirements on timelines
- Ensure proper mechanisms are in place to avoid commingling and supplanting of funds
- Evaluate the ability of sub-grant recipients to manage federal funding
- Consider how the project will be sustained after grant funding has ended

CISA stakeholders who are not the official grant recipients for Preparedness Grants are encouraged to work with eligible recipients and engage further in the DHS grant process.