

Section 8: Department of Homeland Security

In FY 2010, the Department of Homeland Security received \$44.1 billion, a seven percent increase from last year's non-emergency discretionary level.

This amendment would rescind \$2.2 billion (five percent) from the Department and direct the Secretary to eliminate and consolidate more than 24 duplicative programs at the Department and eliminate waste to produce savings.

Duplicative Homeland Security Programs

According to the Office of Management and Budget, a total of "31 agency budgets included federal homeland security funding in 2010. Five agencies—the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, and Energy—account for approximately \$64.9 billion (93 percent) of total government-wide gross discretionary homeland security funding in 2010."¹

Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

Funded at \$60 million annually, the **Homeland Security's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program** was originally designed to support local emergency preparedness efforts, targeting areas of specific need in each state and locality. Unfortunately, the earmarking of EOC funds has significantly reduced the program's effectiveness in enhancing our national security. In addition, the program is duplicative of other Homeland Security efforts, including the **Emergency Management Performance Grant Program**, which allows funds to be used for the construction of Emergency Operations Centers across the country.

The President's FY 2010 budget called for the program's termination, stating that its "focus was compromised, and by 2009, 60 percent of the EOC grant funds were congressional earmarks not allocated by merit-based criteria.

Citizens Corps Program

Funded at \$12.5 million, the **Citizen Corps Programs** is designed to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate community involvement in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery. The **State Homeland Security Program**, which is funded at \$950 billion in FY 2010, can be used by state and local governments to coordinate community involvement in preparedness and response efforts.

¹ OMB Cross Cutting Programs, pg. 16, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2010/assets/crosscutting.pdf>

America Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grants²

The Stimulus bill included \$510 million in three Homeland Security Grants; **Transit Security Grant program, Port Security Grant Program, and Fire Station Construction Grant Program**. Both the Transit Security and Port Security Grant programs already received funding in FY2009 (TSGP - \$384 million and PSGP - \$388 million) and have been funded in FY 2010 at \$300 million each.

In addition, there are currently **three fire grants programs** already available to state and local firefighters. While the funding cannot be directly used to for the construction of fire stations, they can be used for training, purchasing equipment and salaries. This allows state and local governments to use federal money for these efforts, freeing up money for construction of fire stations. In FY2010, the three fire grants are funded at \$810 million.

Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program

Funded at \$17.6 million these grants funds are used to enhance regional response capabilities, mutual aid, and interoperable communications by providing technology and equipment, along with the training required to operate that equipment, to law enforcement and emergency responder agencies in smaller jurisdictions and certain metropolitan areas. This grant program duplicates many of the other FEMA grant programs including, **the five Homeland Security Grant Programs, the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, and the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program**.

Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program

Funded at **\$33.6 million**, the purpose of Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program is to enhance catastrophic incident preparedness in selected high-risk, high-consequence urban areas and their surrounding regions. This grant program duplicates the **State Homeland Security Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative grants**.

Intercity Passenger Rail Program (Amtrak)

Funded at \$20 million, this grant program provides funding to create a sustainable, risk-based effort to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies within the Amtrak rail system. Only Amtrak is eligible to apply for this grant program.³ Moreover, this grant program duplicates the **Transportation Security Grant Program**.

²FEMA website, FEMA Grants and Assistance Programs page, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/arra/index.shtm>

³ Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Intercity Passenger Rail – Amtrak (IPR), Frequently Asked Questions, http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/2010/fy10_ipr_faq.pdf

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program

Funded at \$11.5 million, this grant program provides funding to create a sustainable program for the protection of intercity bus systems and the traveling public from terrorism. The program seeks to assist operators of fixed route intercity and charter bus services in obtaining the resources required to support security measures such as enhanced planning, facility security upgrades, and vehicle and driver protection. This grant program duplicates the Transportation Security grant program.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

Funded at \$100 million, this program provides funds to states, localities and tribal governments for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. **FEMA administers four other mitigation grant programs: the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Repetitive Flood Claims Program, and the Severe Repetitive Flood Claims Program.** While these programs have some differences, they generally fund similar projects.⁴

Waste and Mismanagement at the Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security ends each fiscal year with billions of dollars in unspent and unobligated funds. In 2009, the total amount of unobligated DHS funds is projected to be approximately **\$9.3 billion**.⁵

In FY 2009, DHS made millions of dollars worth of improper payments, incorrectly awarding more than **\$644 million** in taxpayer funding to ineligible recipients.

A January 2008 DHS Inspector General Report examining **\$115 million** awarded to the state of Georgia found that the state did not “identify needs or address evaluation processes adequately,”⁶ and that there were no central controls for equipment purchases, monitoring of subgrantees, and the controls set up for claimed costs were not effective.⁷

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is unable to account for how it spent \$28 million since 2002 (**\$4 million annually**), and testified before Congress

⁴ CRS Report “FEMA’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program: Overview and Issues,” June 26, 2008, by Francis X. McCarthy, pg. 5.

⁵ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2009/pdf/balances.pdf>

⁶ Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Report “The State of Georgia’s Management of State Homeland Security Grants Awarded During Fiscal Year 2002-2004,” January 2008.

⁷ Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Report “The State of Georgia’s Management of State Homeland Security Grants Awarded During Fiscal Year 2002-2004,” January 2008.

stating that FEMA, “never asked grant recipients to measure the benefits of the funding.”⁸

A February 2008 DHS Inspector General Report examining **\$142 million** awarded to the state of Ohio found problems with grant fund use, measureable goals and objectives, grant disbursements, subgrantee monitoring, procurement procedures, personal property controls, vehicle use, and commingling of grant funds.⁹

The same February 2008 DHS Inspector General Report examining **\$129 million** awarded to the state of Michigan found that state officials “did not have a documented analysis of how effective its efforts had been in preparing first responders for terrorist incidents” and that as a result the state “did not have a valid basis for justifying future first responder grant funds.”¹⁰

In Marin County, California, Homeland security funds paid for big screen TV, a Monte Carlo, 70 replicas of firearms, and **\$67,000 in equipment** that has never been used and is still boxed in its original packaging¹¹

Head of the Florida Sheriffs’ Association spent **\$212,000** in Homeland Security and Justice Department training grants to pay for first-class Las Vegas gambling junkets.¹²

In 2006, Crawfordsville, Indiana’s Fire Department used **\$55,000** in Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program funds to purchase gym equipment, provide nutritional counseling and to provide instruction to firefighters interested in becoming fitness trainers.¹³

⁸ NewsMax, “FEMA Spends \$5 million to Find Lost \$28 Million,” October 28, 2009.

⁹ Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Report “Audit of the State of Ohio Homeland Security Grant Program, February 2008.

¹⁰ Department of Homeland Security Inspector General Report “The State of Michigan’s Management of State Homeland Security Grants Awarded During Fiscal Year 2002-2004,” February 2008.

¹¹ Sacramento Bee,

http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=ab21a47c-802a-23ad-4410-79434190da42, September 21, 2009.

¹² Associated Press,

http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=LatestNews.NewsStories&ContentRecord_id=39ed375e-802a-23ad-466c-9c98ee6ef817, August 11, 2009

¹³ *Washington Times*, April 21, 2006, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2006/apr/20/20060420-110852-8296r/>, accessed February 24, 2009.