



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

Jon S. Corzine, *Governor*

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State Receives More than \$61 Million in Federal Homeland Security Funding — Additional \$30.8 Million One-Time Grant Received to Improve Communications —

HAMILTON - The federal government today awarded New Jersey \$61.1 million in homeland security dollars for 2007, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas said. This amount represents an increase of almost 18 percent compared with 2006. Additionally, the state received a \$30.8 million grant to improve statewide radio and communications interoperability from a new federal Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program.

Cañas noted that the state's seven-county Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) received almost \$36.1 million in funding, an increase of more than 5 percent compared with last year, while statewide homeland security funds (State Homeland Security Program and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program grants) increased by nearly 45 percent to just under \$24.2 million. DHS also published the state's allocations for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS, \$516,290) and the Citizen Corps Program (CCP, \$362,216), which had been previously released. Director Cañas stated that as in 2006, OHSP will follow Governor Corzine's mandate to the office to distribute funds according to clear guidelines based on risk.

Excluding the interoperability grants, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is distributing \$1.72 billion in fiscal year 2007 to states across the country. This represents almost a 3 percent decrease from the previous year's total of \$1.77 billion. Last year, New Jersey received just under \$52 million.

"Protecting families and communities is the most important role of government and this funding will be put to good use based on where the greatest risks are," Governor Jon S. Corzine said. "While I am pleased that New Jersey received more overall funding, I am troubled by the fact that the national total of homeland security funding has been reduced. And the President's proposed budget for 2008 would reduce these grants even more dramatically. Given the release of yesterday's National Intelligence Estimate with its stark predictions of future attacks, I fail to understand why federal funding is declining, not growing. I will continue to work with our Congressional delegation to support pending legislation that redresses skewed priorities."

"The homeland security grant process entails considerable behind-the-scenes preparation and dedication of time," said Cañas. "I'd like to thank the scores of state, county and local participants — from our state agencies, UASI executive committee, UASI disciplinary subcommittees and county working groups — who did the hard work with my office to help determine the key security programs in which we will invest these funds.

"This year's increase in funding is also a testament to Governor Corzine's recognition that this state needed a centralized agency responsible for overseeing, planning and distributing federal and state homeland security funds," Cañas said.



For the 2007 funding cycle, New Jersey's UASI was designated a Tier I region, eligible with six other UASI regions to compete for \$410.8 million, or 55 percent of the total UASI funding of \$746.9 million. The remaining 39 UASI areas were deemed Tier II regions, and were eligible to compete for the remaining \$336.1 million. In addition to New Jersey, the other Tier I UASI regions are the Bay Area (Cal.), Chicago Area, Houston Area, Los Angeles/Long Beach Area, National Capital Region (DC) and the New York City Area. Funding to New Jersey's UASI for 2007 ranked fifth out of the seven Tier I regions.

In 2006, New Jersey received more than \$34.3 million in UASI funds, which are targeted toward urban areas across the nation deemed to be at greater risk of terrorist attack. New Jersey's UASI region encompasses Jersey City and Newark and the seven counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Union.

Cañas went on to say that that the state will shortly be informing each county of its specific statewide grant share which will be based on clearly articulated state risk formula.

In the past, Cañas said, these funds have been used to equip and train emergency responders, protect the state's critical facilities against potential terrorist attacks and for a variety of other homeland security and domestic preparedness initiatives.

Once the specific funding amounts are announced, Cañas said that each county will continue to work with its multi-disciplinary Working Group to refine its specific spending and protection plans along with the state. Each county previously developed a spending plan that was factored into the state's overall grant submission.

At a minimum, the county working group includes the county office of emergency management coordinator, freeholder director, administrator or executive, fiscal officer, county prosecutor or designee, county police chiefs' association representative, county fire coordinator or fire marshal, county emergency medical services coordinator, hazmat team representative, medical examiner, health officer, as well as representatives from county healthcare institutions and from the county's largest city.

New Jersey's UASI has a similar planning process overseen by an executive committee, made up of representatives from the seven counties and two cities, which works through subcommittees representing the region's various emergency response disciplines (e.g., public health, emergency medical services, fire/hazmat, search and rescue, law enforcement/critical infrastructure protection, etc.).

Grants for Interoperability

DHS today also announced funding for a one-time Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program, a program to enhance public safety agencies' interoperable communications, including radio, data and video transmissions. New Jersey received a total of \$30.8 million, with just under \$17.5 million designated for use in the state's UASI region and just over \$13.3 million for use statewide. Cañas welcomed the funding and indicated that, though New Jersey has made strides in interoperability, especially in the UASI area, enhancing first responder communications remains a priority for the state. New Jersey's funding represented the third highest total among the seven Tier 1 UASI regions and seventh highest total among all the states. A total of \$968.4 million was made available in PSIC funds nationwide.