



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

Jon S. Corzine, *Governor*

Richard L. Cañas, *Director*

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For More Information Contact

Scott Kisch (609) 588-7250 or (609) 902-5886

State Awarded More than \$82.6 Million in 2009 Federal Homeland Security Funding

HAMILTON — Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas today announced that New Jersey will be awarded more than \$82.6 million in federal homeland security dollars for federal fiscal year 2009. This amount, which consists of funding under ten core homeland security programs, represents an overall increase of nearly 11.5% compared with last year's funding.

The state's seven-county Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) received more than \$35.2 million in funding for 2009, an increase of about 1 percent compared with last year. The Northern New Jersey UASI, which encompasses Jersey City and Newark and the seven counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Union, is one of six Tier I urban regions considered at greater risk of terrorist attack. Nonprofit groups in New Jersey's UASI area will share more than \$1.6 million to improve security efforts under the UASI Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This amount is nearly double the amount awarded last year. Additionally, the state's UASI area was awarded more than \$3.6 million under the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, which allows for regional planning for terrorist incidents and other catastrophic events in coordination with New York City's UASI.

Cañas noted that the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funds dedicated for use throughout the state's 21 counties totaled more than \$25.5 million, a decrease of 8% compared with last year. In the coming weeks, the state will be informing each county of its specific statewide grant share, which will be based on the state's clearly articulated risk formula. He also said that final award amounts under the UASI and SHSP programs were based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review of the state's investment justifications through a peer review process.

"Protecting our residents and communities is our top priority," said Governor Jon S. Corzine. "Our total funding levels are significantly higher than last year and I want to thank New Jersey's Congressional delegation for their efforts to secure funding of these vital programs at workable levels and for distributing these funds to the areas that need them the most."

"Because of our effective and risk-based grant management practices, New Jersey's total homeland security funding for this year is nearly \$8.5 million greater than last year," Cañas said. "I am pleased to see the increase to UASI funding and the commitment to regional catastrophic planning and interoperable emergency communications, which are critical to New Jersey's prevention and preparedness efforts. We will continue to follow the Governor's mandate to distribute these funds to address our areas of greatest risk."



Like last year, New Jersey was again awarded more than \$1.4 million under the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, in which funds will be used for planning, training, exercising, and equipment to improve interoperable emergency communications.

As previously announced, DHS also published the state's allocations as follows:

- \$7.5 million to be awarded to the New Jersey State Police under the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program to enhance all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
- \$3.6 million awarded under the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) to enhance safety and security in communities surrounding critical infrastructure sites.
- \$3 million awarded to four counties under the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program to improve emergency management preparedness capabilities at their county emergency operations centers.
- Nearly \$643,000 to be awarded to Newark and Jersey City under the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program to enhance regional mass casualty incident response capabilities.
- Nearly \$358,000 awarded under the Citizen Corps Program to better coordinate community involvement in emergency preparedness planning, response and recovery.

Cañas said that the yearly homeland security grant process entails considerable preparation and dedication of time, and he thanked the many state, county and local participants from state agencies, the UASI executive committee, UASI disciplinary subcommittees and county working groups who work with OHSP to determine and develop the key security programs in which to invest these funds.

DHS is distributing more than \$3.1 billion in fiscal year 2009 to states across the country, which is about \$52 million more than what was awarded in 2008. Last year, New Jersey received more than \$74.1 million in the comparable grant programs.

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