

FY 2008 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program



Overview:

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grant program is an important component of the administration's larger, coordinated effort to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, and interoperable EOCs focusing on identified deficiencies and needs. Funds are provided per Section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S. C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L.110-53). Each state, local, or tribal EOC was eligible to request funding for one construction or renovation project.

In Fiscal Year 2008, DHS will award more than \$14.5 million in EOC grants for construction or renovation of a state, local or tribal government's principal EOC. Each state, local, or tribal EOC was eligible to request funds for one construction or renovation project.

Purpose

Fully capable emergency operations facilities at the state, local, and tribal levels are an essential element of a comprehensive national emergency management system and are necessary to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters caused by any hazard.

Construction in the EOC program is defined as building a new facility or any changes to the footprint of an existing EOC facility; renovation refers to internal improvements to an existing facility.

Funding

Under Section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S. C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L.110-53), EOC grants will provide approximately \$14,572,500 for one construction or renovation project for each state, local or tribal EOC. In FY 2008, EOC Grant Program funds may only be expended for EOC construction and renovation costs; planning costs to support such activities; management and administrative costs; and limited EOC equipment costs.

Eligibility

The State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the 56 U.S. states and territories applied for funding for all eligible state, local, and tribal EOCs. Grants were awarded to the SAA for sub-grant to qualified state, local and tribal EOCs. Construction and renovation projects selected for funding will receive the full amount requested. However, grantees must provide 25 percent of the federal grant through a cash or in-kind match.

Allowable Expenses

The FY 2008 EOC Grant Program funds are to be expended only for EOC construction (no more than \$1,000,000) or renovation (no more than \$250,000) costs. In addition, planning costs to support the EOC construction or renovation activities are allowable.

Equipment procurement was authorized under the following Authorized Equipment List-allowable equipment categories:

- Explosive Device Mitigation and Remediation (Category 2)
- Information Technology (Category 4)
- Cyber-Security Enhancement Equipment (Category 5)
- Interoperable Communications Equipment (Category 6)
- Power Equipment (Category 10)
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Reference Materials (Category 11)
- Physical Security Enhancement Equipment (Category 14)
- CBRNE Logistical Support Equipment (Category 19)
- Other Authorized Equipment (Category 21)

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria

Applicants had to submit a complete application based on the criteria set forth in the FY 2008 EOC grant program guidance and application kit addressing designated criteria. FEMA recognizes that each state and local jurisdiction has unique needs. Construction or renovation projects were selected on how well the applications addressed the following criteria:

- State-identified priorities
- Quality of the justification
- Pre-existing planning

Peer Review: The designated SAA, in conjunction with the state Emergency Management Agency (EMA), reviewed and prioritized all state, local, and tribal EOC project applications. The state review identified high, medium, and low priority projects based on the state, local, and tribal priorities and needs to ensure a coordinated, statewide efforts.

National Review: The national review panel was comprised of FEMA headquarters and regional staff, as well as peer subject matter experts and federal partners such as the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). FEMA screened all state submissions to ensure compliance with administrative and eligibility requirements, as identified by the FY 2008 EOC guidance and application kit, prior to distribution for review. Those projects considered compliant with all federal requirements were then deemed eligible for national review and forwarded on to regional staff, as well as NEMA and IAEM partners.

Cost share: Grantees were required to meet a 25 percent cost share cash or in-kind match requirement in accordance with federal guidelines and DHS Office of General Counsel rulings. Match requirements were waived for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.