2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Priorities

Each year federal Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) application guidance requires the grouping of projects into investments with justification on how the projects will help improve the state capacity to prevent and respond to various threats and hazards, and how we are working to protect critical infrastructure. The federal guidance outlines required areas where grant dollars must be invested; encourages focus on the priorities identified in the National Preparedness Report; and, directs the state to support projects that will close the most critical capability gaps. Focusing sub-grant applications around specific priorities helps to bring coherence to the federal application and allows demonstration of tangible results from the grant award.

Everyone has a role in identifying and quantifying the most critical areas to use the state's grant funds. Detailed reporting of activities, assessments, and resource shortfalls helps to ensure focus on the proper needs. The WV EMD grant staff has reviewed local THIRAs, after action reports, and incident situation reports from the last two years. Capability gaps are frequently identified in the following areas:

- SIRN network access and equipment
- Hazardous Materials response
- Emergency power for critical facilities
- Equipment for law enforcement special response teams
- Pedestrian and vehicular traffic control
- Information Technology – hardware, software, network security, broadband access, audio/video conferencing capability
- Emergency Operations Center equipment and procedures
- Point of Dispensing site equipment – specifically related to drive-through capacity
- Community/Public notification
- Swiftwater rescue equipment
- Fatality Management resources

- Training – cybersecurity, ETeam, debris management. ICS position specific courses, EM Basic Academy, resource management/mobilization, SIRN radio usage, National Qualification System, HSEEP, developing and implementing emergency plans

- Manpower – inadequate staffing was noted in many disciplines and functions; however, it is generally not possible to resolve this issue within HSGP grant guidance

Federal grant guidance for 2021 may articulate additional national priorities. In 2020, the national priorities were:

- Soft Targets/Crowded Spaces
- Emergent Threats
- Cybersecurity
- Intelligence and Information Sharing

The state also submitted projects within three additional investments:
- Operational Communications
- Major Incident Response
- Law Enforcement Capability Enhancement

Based on the data and information collected over the last two years, the following are the preliminary state priorities for the FY21 HSGP grant cycle.

Program Priorities	Activity Examples
Cybersecurity: Projects that will build resilience in government and private networks and systems; improve the ability of the whole community to share and receive timely and effective cybersecurity and cyber defense information; synchronize cyber activities for prevention and response; and, coordinate internal and external cyber response activities.	• Network assessments • Plan/procedure development • Firewalls; Network equipment • Specialized software • Cybersecurity training
Operational Coordination and Communications: Projects that will improve the ability of law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, public health, school systems, and other emergency management partners to conduct integrated operational planning; establish effective, scalable incident command structures; ensure interoperable communications; share information; and, maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture.	• SOPs/SOGs • EOC equipment • EOC-related exercises • SIRN-compatible radios • Microwave Relays for SIRN system • Communication training and exercises
Emergent Threats: Projects that will improve the ability of the whole community to implement an integrated, coherent response to new or evolving threats including addressing the aftereffects. This would include medical and non-medical countermeasures; detecting and containing threats; communications capabilities among response partners and with the public; risk reduction; and ensuring sustainment of critical lifelines.	• Point of Distribution (POD) equipment • Threat-specific Annex development in Emergency Operations Plans • Radiological equipment (within restrictions) • Exercises • Stop the Bleed kits
Public Facilities Safety and Security: Projects that will improve the safety and security of critical facilities through implementation of monitoring and communications equipment, access control, and other security devices; reduce risk in soft target environments; improve the incident management and coordination between facility management and first responders; and, training and resources to improve the well-being of facility staff and the public before, during, and after an incident.	• Active Intruder exercises • Cameras and security systems • Pedestrian and vehicular barriers • Stop the Bleed kits and training • Election security equipment and training • Emergency back-up power
Law Enforcement Capability Enhancement: Projects that will develop, maintain, and mature critical law enforcement capabilities including training and equipment for specialized teams; equipment to improve officer safety; systems to improve fixed and mobile monitoring capability; and, expansion of law enforcement capacity during large incidents.	• SRT equipment • License Plate Readers • Security and safety enhancements (restrictions) • Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs)
Major Incident Response: Projects that will improve the state's civilian posture to respond to large scale events including Logistics and Distribution Management, Hazardous Materials, Mass Search and Rescue, Housing, and long-term recovery.	• Hazardous Materials Response equipment • Logistics planning, training & equipment • Search & Rescue capability • Housing & Recovery Annexes to EOPs