



SECURE & PREPARED

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FY08 Homeland Security Grant Update

The deadline to submit projects to Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) for consideration under the FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program has now passed. HSEMD received many good projects, and within the next few weeks will be working with the chosen applicants to develop full investment justifications as part of the state application.

Next steps in the application process include:

April 4, 2008	Investment justifications due to HSEMD
May 1, 2008	FY08 applications submitted to U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
Mid June, 2008	Peer review
Early August, 2008	Award to state

Snapshot of FY08 Homeland Security Dollars

Total federal dollars dedicated to homeland security grants, not including the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), continued to grow slightly from \$1.66 billion in federal fiscal year 2007, to \$1.7 billion in federal fiscal year 2008. While that's good news, the bad news for rural states like Iowa is a continuing shift of dollars to more populated cities and states.

The amount set aside under the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grew from \$509 million last year to \$781 million in 2008. But when taking into account the elimination of the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), the total amount appropriated for states actually dropped from \$872 million to \$781 million. Meanwhile, the amount set aside for populated cities under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) continued to grow from \$746 million to \$862 million in federal fiscal year 2008.

Three Year Trend of Homeland Security Dollars (In Millions)

	2006	2007	2008
SHSP	\$528	\$509	\$781
LETPP	\$384	\$363	eliminated
UASI	\$710	\$746	\$862
Total	\$1,622	\$1,618	\$1,643

Special points of interest:

- PIOs play an important role during disasters. Read about one PIO's experiences on page 3.
- Learn more about HSEMD's Communications and Technology Bureau on page 4.
- Is a volunteer in your community making a difference? Learn how to nominate your deserving volunteers for a Governor's Volunteer Award on page 5.

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The Shoemaker's Shoes

By HSEMD Administrator David Miller



There is an old adage that the family of the shoemaker is the last one to have shoes. I'm hoping those of us in emergency management don't follow that trail in terms of preparing our own families for disasters. As we approach the spring storm season -- I know I'm being optimistic, but warmer weather is just around the corner -- be sure your family and loved ones have a basic plan for severe weather. Go to www.bereadyiowa.org for a complete set of preparedness tips for storms and other disasters.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is scheduled for April 7–11 this year. The statewide tornado drill, complete with NOAA radio broadcasts, will be held on the morning of April 9. This is an excellent opportunity to test your plans at home and in the workplace.

As our hearts go out to the people of Tennessee and other southern states that were recently ravaged by a line of tornadoes, we must remember to do all we can to prepare our own families and loved ones. When we are asked to respond, we will be able to perform our jobs at a much higher level, knowing our loved ones are safe. That peace of mind starts by taking the appropriate preparedness steps now.

Vos Named to Regional Communications Working Group

HSEMD's Barbara Vos has been named to the newly-established Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) for FEMA Region VII. The purpose of the working group is to advise the FEMA Region VII administrator on all aspects of emergency communications relevant to the region. Vos is Iowa's 911 program manager.

The RECCWG will have four major duties:

- Assess survivability, sustainability and interoperability of local emergency communication systems.
- Report to the FEMA Region annually on the status of building a robust and sustainable interoperable voice and data emergency communications system.
- Develop a process for the coordination of multi-jurisdictional multi-agency emergency communication networks.
- Coordinate support to affected jurisdictions, if appropriate, following a natural disaster, acts of terrorism, or other mandate disaster.

The working group was established by the 2006 Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act.

Members of the working group represent a variety of state and local government agencies, including public safety, public health, emergency medical services, fire, 911 services, and homeland security and emergency management officials.

The working group will hold its first meeting on March 4, 2008, at the FEMA Region VII offices in Kansas City, MO.

PIO a “Blessing” During Iowa City Tornado

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, providing instruction to the public and information to the media is an important job. When a tornado struck Iowa City on April 13, 2006, James Moody, Johnson County Emergency Management Agency PIO, learned first-hand just how important the role of public information officer is during disasters.

Moody had been the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency’s public Information officer (PIO) for only a few months when the F2 tornado hit Iowa City and other areas of eastern Iowa, causing extensive damage. Moody, who was a member of the county emergency management commission, was tapped for the job by then-Johnson County Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Hansen. Moody had taken FEMA’s basic public information officer course; the tornado provided him a wealth of on-the-job training.

The basic PIO course gave him a good idea of what he needed to do: Get the facts, make sure they were accurate, and get them to the public and the media.

“You can’t be afraid to say you need help,” said Moody, who immediately recognized the need to assemble a team to handle the barrage of media requests. He received assistance from various agencies involved in the response and enlisted friends to help respond to the media inquiries that began shortly after the tornado struck.

Sue Faith, emergency management and homeland security coordinator for Cedar County and assistant coordinator for Johnson County, worked with Moody during the tornado response. She applauds Moody for his performance under pressure. “There is no way that I could have carried that successfully and done the great job that James did,” she said.

Faith said having a PIO in place was a blessing, and allowed her and Hansen to focus on the many details that needed to be dealt with during the response and recovery phase of the incident. She encourages every county emergency management agency to identify and train a PIO whose primary role and only role is to get messages to the public in a timely, professional, and accurate way.

Moody also recommends that organizations identify and train people in their jurisdiction to serve as PIOs. “You can’t do it all on your own,” he says of officials who are in the thick of disaster response.

Moody has taken additional PIO training, including the advanced PIO course at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. He said there are people in every county who, with some training, are capable of acting as a PIO for their county or organization.



James Moody, PIO for Johnson County Emergency Management Agency

2008 Homeland Security Grant Program Snapshot

Continued from page 1

Although Iowa’s allocation of the SHSP program isn’t anticipated until July, Iowa did receive information that the Citizen Corps (CC) grant was virtually unchanged and the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), which is passed through to the City of Des Moines, actually grew.

Three Year Trend for Citizen Corps and MMRS

	2006	2007	2008
CC	\$257,718	\$195,241	\$195,388
MMRS	\$232,330	\$258,145	\$321,221

HSEMD Bureau Spotlight

HSEMD is involved in a wide variety of programs and initiatives. To give readers a better understanding of the responsibilities of each of the four bureaus and the homeland security team, we will periodically provide a snapshot of bureau/staff projects and responsibilities.

Communications and Technology Bureau

The Communications and Technology Bureau is responsible for official communication and public information as well as the GIS/GPS program, the statewide E911 program, and information technology.

Several teams make up the bureau, including the front desk, information technology, and communications/public affairs. Here are some of the bureau's major areas of responsibility and current projects:

Bret Voorhees-Bureau Chief

- Staff management
- Media interviews/press releases
- Coordinate activities with external affairs staff at Joint Field Office
- Team lead for marketing with Safeguard Iowa Partnership

Front Desk

Mary Stephens

- Lead on power plant, Iowa Warning System (IAWAS), National Warning System (NAWAS) phones, and Iowa Communications Network (ICN) issues
- Vehicle administrator
- Access coordinator for Capitol Complex
- Secure closet/inventory

Sue Lomica

- Answer phones, scanning
- Check in orders/supplies
- Sign for deliveries from FedEx, UPS, etc.
- Work on large mailings

Communications/Public Affairs

Lucinda Robertson

- Department and division annual reports, division newsletter co-editor
- Primary speech writer, coordinate presentation requests
- Joint information center (JIC) co-lead, developing improved state JIC SOPs
- Special projects, such as planning workshops for PIOs from bordering states, local jurisdictions, and state agencies

Kara Berg

- Media calls, press releases
- Web site development and maintenance

- Co-editor of division newsletter
- Produces monthly Governor's report on Division activities

E911 Program

Barb Vos

- Statewide Wireless E911 system
- Collection and remittance of the wireless surcharge
- Work with counties, wireless carriers, phone companies
- Various reports

Technology

John Pommer

- Help desk support
- Support EOC during activations or as needed
- Maintain PC/printer/copier replacement plan
- Data centralization project

Randy Goddard

- Telecommunications connectivity for voice, data, and IP/ISDN video equipment
- Radio networks—Shared Resources (SHARES) High Frequency Radio Program, and FEMA National Radio System (FNARS)
- Communications interoperability
- Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP), Government Emergency Telecommunication Service (GETS), and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) programs

Jon Paoli

- Geographic information system (GIS)
- WebEOC administration
- Database administration
- IT assistance/Health Alert Network (HAN) back-up

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Governor's Volunteer Award

We all know volunteers are vital to the preparedness of our communities. The Governor's Volunteer Award is the perfect way to recognize the dedication and hard work of those who make a difference in your community.

HSEMD's Tracey Epps is coordinating nominations for staff and affiliates of the Division. County emergency management coordinators and others in the fields of emergency management and homeland security who need a nomination form may contact her at tracey.epps@iowa.gov or 515-725-3231. Nominations must be completed by March 7 and sent to Tracey at 7105 NW 70th Ave., Camp Dodge W4, Johnston, IA 50131.



For more information on the Governor's Volunteer Award, visit www.volunteeriowa.org/awards.

New LEPC Requirements for FFY09 HMEP

All Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) must meet new requirements to be eligible to apply for FFY09 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants (HMEP).

LEPCs applying for funding must meet the following requirements prior to the start of the application process in early June:

- Current membership lists (within the last two years)
- Designated chairperson and e-mail address
- Meeting minutes (must show that the Annex P was reviewed) within the current state fiscal year

Possible increases in the HMEP grant in the future will mean increased accountability. If you have questions about your LEPC's eligibility, contact HSEMD's Paul Sadler at 515-725-3250. Required documents may be sent to him via e-mail at paul.sadler@iowa.gov. For questions about the grant, contact Lisa Sexton at 515-725-3213 or lisa.sexton@iowa.gov.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

HSEMD will host an Emergency Planning Course May 13-14. Register now as 19 seats remain and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

This course is designed for emergency management personnel involved in developing an effective emergency planning system. It offers training in the fundamentals of the emergency planning process, including the rationale behind planning and developing capabilities for effective participation in the all-hazard emergency operations planning process.

The course will be held at Camp Dodge in Johnston in Building W34. To register for this course or to find other HSEMD training opportunities, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/training/classes.asp.