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GRANTS OFFICE

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World-class grants intelligence, at your fingertips



2011 DHS Funding: Winners, Losers, and Those Playing another Day

By Vince Siragusa, Grants Development Consultant

As an indication that federal lawmakers are increasingly committed to deficit reduction and reining in spending, the recent congressional compromise trims \$38.5 billion over the remainder of federal fiscal year 2011. Inevitably, those asked to do more with less will continue to be called upon to follow up on this daunting assignment. While thrifty public and private organizations have long ago trimmed the proverbial fat from their operational costs, many homeland security grant programs, no longer exempt from the broader discretionary spending freezes, will now be required to meet the same task. Let us take some look at what we can expect in Department of Homeland Security spending in 2011.

WINNERS:

Firefighter Assistance Grants - \$810 million (\$810 million in 2010)

- \$405 million for Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) (\$390 million in 2010)
- \$405 million for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) (\$420 million in 2010)

One of the few programs that appear to have come out of the budgeting process unscathed is the consistently popular Firefighter Assistance Grants, which supports both the equipment-centric Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and the personnel-friendly Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). The AFG program itself provides three individual categories of support including: Operations and Safety, Vehicle Acquisition, and Regional

Projects. Additionally, the SAFER program is a welcomed opportunity to fund the salaries and benefits for full-time firefighter positions. Beginning April 2011, information on the AFG and SAFER programs will be found at www.fema.gov/firegrants in place of the traditional www.firegrantsupport.com.

Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) - \$340 million in 2011 (\$340 million in 2010)

The 2011 EMPG program will look similar to the 2010 offering in both the size and scope of the grant funding available. The program continues to assist state and local governments in their efforts to enhance all-hazards emergency management capabilities.

LOSERS:

The Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP), unfunded in 2011 (\$50 million in 2010).

The BZPP formerly supported activities designed to protect the nation's critical infrastructure against the risks associated with a potential terrorist attack. While infrastructure and resources protection is still a national priority, interested grantseekers should explore other grant options such as SHSP, EMPG, and Operation Stonegarden.

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), unfunded in 2011 (\$50 million in 2010).

IECGP may be a program remembered more for its potential than for actual programmatic impact. Derived from the well-

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funded and extremely equipment-friendly Public Safety Interoperable Communication (PSIC) program, IECGP never seemed to live up to the hype. Even the government appropriations were consistently disappointing as Congress never came close to the appropriation levels allowed by the authorizing statute (up to \$400 million). Those interested in supporting communication interoperability should consider targeting AFG, SHSP, and EMPG.

Playing Another Day:

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) - \$725 million in 2011 (\$887 million in 2010)

The UASI program is designed to enhance the regional preparedness efforts in various high-threat, high-density, urban areas across the country. In 2010, the “UASI eligible” areas numbered 64. What remains to be seen is how the local allocations will look in 2011, especially in a zero-sum game such as this. You can be sure that cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago will be lobbying for their share of the UASI pie in 2011.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) - \$725 million in 2011 (\$950 million in 2010)

Existing as one of the more comprehensive DHS programs, support through SHSP will ultimately impact a

variety of homeland security partners and efforts related to the prevention and response to terrorism, natural disasters, and other “all hazards.” Still, the decrease in SHSP funding represents one of the more troublesome 2011 DHS funding cuts. While \$725 million is the budgeted program allocation, a truer SHSP amount is closer to \$580 million once additional calculations are done. New for this year, we’ll find formerly autonomous programs now being funding as part of SHSP. Those programs include Operation Stonegarden (OSGP) (\$55 million), Driver’s License Security Grant Program (DLSGP) (\$45 million), Citizen Corps Program (CCP) (\$10 million), and Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (MMRS) (\$35 million).

Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) - \$250 million in 2011 (\$300 million in 2010)

This program is designed to support sustained efforts that protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) - \$250 million in 2011 (\$300 million in 2010)

PSGP focuses on security activities involving transportation infrastructure and more specifically provides grant

funding to enhance the protection of critical port infrastructure across the country.

Emergency Operations Center Grants (EOC) - \$15 million in 2011 (\$60 million in 2010)

The EOC program has consistently proven to be a good funder of emergency management and preparedness capabilities for many EOCs across the country. The fact that the lion’s share of the money (roughly 80% in 2010) was available through a non-competitive discretionary process often makes this program’s support as contingent upon whom you know as what your project supports.

The ebb and flow of an ever-changing grant landscape inevitably leaves many question marks in its wake. Fortunately, the methods and next steps for getting in front of this 2011 DHS money appear relatively unchanged, as does the fact that billions of dollars will still be available for local, regional, and state support. Continue to utilize all contacts and resources at your disposal as you ultimately work to position your project(s) as the best possible use of existing DHS money. Additional information is available at www.dhs.gov/xgovt/grants/ and www.homelandsecuritygrants.info.



A Revolutionary Use for Grant Funding: THE ROLE OF GRANTS IN SUPPORTING EGYPT'S TRANSFORMATION

By Christopher Haight, Grants Development Consultant

The "Arab Spring" of revolutions and demonstrations across the Middle East began December 17, 2010 when street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi lit himself on fire in protest of political oppression. Since Bouazizi's self-immolation, two long-standing dictators, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt have been ousted, a civil war compelling international involvement has erupted in Libya, and brutal crackdowns continue across the increasingly volatile region.

The most profound change from the lens of direct U.S. interests and foreign policy occurred when former President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt finally ceded control of the country he has led for nearly three decades. As a long-standing ally of the United States on peaceful terms with Israel and boasting one of the most powerful armies in the region, Egypt's path to revolution has been carefully handled by U.S. policymakers.

Now, with Mubarak gone, the United States is seeking to continue its supportive relationship with a critical ally by providing transition assistance

in the form of grant funding.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced \$65 million in new funding to support the political, economic, and social transition occurring in Egypt. The funding program, officially titled Egyptian Transition Support, focuses on five broad areas of reform: Civic Engagement/Awareness, Elections and Political Processes, Access to Justice/Human Rights, Transparency and Accountability, and Civic Participation. These areas are described briefly below:

Civic Engagement/Awareness

The purpose of this area is to increase participation among Egyptian citizens in the national discussion on the future of the country. In a country long-ruled by a dictator, one of the many challenges in a post-revolutionary era is to ensure all constituencies feel included in the process of establishing new political frameworks and institutions. Dissemination of information related to political rights and inclusion of grassroots efforts and organizations are particularly important.

Elections and Political Processes

In order to ensure that a new participatory democracy can thrive, this area seeks to support legal reforms, education and outreach efforts, and

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Grants Program Spotlight: COPS Secure Our Schools (SOS)

The COPS Secure Our Schools (SOS) program provides funding to support enhanced partnerships between law enforcement agencies and primary and/or secondary schools. Funding can be used for training, equipment and technology, supplies, consultants, and other various expenses related to addressing school safety concerns. This will likely be the best Federal opportunity to fund school security projects in FY2011.

Law enforcement agencies apply on behalf of a partnership with local school. The maximum award is \$500,000 with a 1:1 match requirement (for example, if \$50,000 is requested, the applicant must also supply \$50,000 in cash).

The deadline for priority consideration is May 25, 2011. The final deadline is June 8, 2011. Learn more at <http://www.schoolsafetygrants.info/GrantDetails.aspx?Grant=14769>.

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voting procedures in Egypt. Ensuring a high degree of credibility and trust in the electoral system, otherwise a new government will easily come to be dismissed as corrupt and invalid.

Access to Justice/Human Rights

This area aims to increase support for organizations offering legal services and resources in order to advance and protect human rights throughout the country. Support in this area may also be directed towards the media in order to protect such rights as free speech and ensure a higher degree of investigation into potential abuses.

Transparency and Accountability

This area provides support for efforts to increase access to information, oversight of governmental institutions and policymakers, and policies that ward against corruption. Similarly to

the Access to Justice/Human Rights area of funding, the Transparency and Accountability area seeks to support multiple sectors including civil society, media, and other public oversight agencies.

Civic Participation

USAID describes the purpose of this area as supporting "citizens in peacefully exercising their rights of expression, association, and civic engagement - including through participation in civil society organizations to congregate, formulate and advocate for common issues of concern and serve as a vehicle for participation in decision-making that affects their daily lives." This area provides funding for capacity-building initiatives at community-based institutions to engage more citizens in public discussion and participation.

The Egyptian Transition Support

program is a key example of incorporation of grant funding into what U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has long promoted as "Smart Power." Smart Power is best understood as the effective blending of all available tools - economic, diplomatic, military, etc. - to accomplish foreign policy aims, rather than viewing each as mutually exclusive of one another. From this perspective, the grant funding offered by USAID complements and supports the other military, economic, and diplomatic goals instead of just being concerned with development efforts.

To learn more about this grant opportunity, including deadlines and how to apply, please visit

http://upstream.grantsoffice.com/GrantDetails.aspx?grant_id=30636.

Chasing Dollars for High-Speed Rail Grants



On May 9, 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation, led by Secretary Ray LaHood, announced the reallocation of \$2 billion in high-speed rail grants. The re-awarding of \$2 billion came as the result of Florida rejecting initial high-speed rail funding that had been awarded under the previous governor, Gov. Charlie Crist (R-FL).

The biggest regional winner by far was the Northeast with \$795 million allocated towards the Boston-Washington corridor. The overall goal for improvements made to these lines is to increase speeds from 135 to 160 miles per hour. The Midwest received just over \$400 million to upgrade lines between Detroit and Chicago and Chicago and St. Louis. California received another \$300 million to continue its high-speed rail project between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

High-speed rail continues to be the source of debate among policymakers, interest groups, and other stakeholders. While supporters argue it will help foster economic growth among the connected cities and provide thousands of new jobs, detractors question its long-term viability. Grant funding has been the key source of investment of this priority on the Obama administration's transportation agenda and will likely play a key role in future years as well.

To Be or Not to Be: Exploring Rural Health Networks

By Chris LaPage, Grants Development Consultant



Anyone paying attention to the health sector grant funding landscape is certain to see several opportunities each year specifically designed for rural health networks. Under these programs, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) distributes the majority of federal dollars available to formally organized rural health networks, which usually requires a pre-existing relationship (prior to grant announcement), while some is reserved for entities in the planning stages of network development. In Fiscal Year 2012 alone, HRSA has committed \$17.2 million in funding for rural health networks. Since most of the commitments are for multi-year projects, the real funding total over the next three years will exceed \$50 million.

For rural health care entities that have resisted entering into such formal network arrangements in the past, the major financial investment by the federal government should put such conversations back on the table. Beyond the implications of meeting eligibility requirements for much needed grant funding, rural health

networks have a slew of other potential benefits. For example, a formal rural health network might consist of a critical access hospital, a rural health clinic, a federally qualified health center and a mental health agency. Evidence suggests that formal health networks are in a better position to care for patients across the continuum, leading to better health outcomes. In addition, a formal health network is likely to achieve economies of scale when it comes to purchasing power as well as other potential efficiencies. For instance, individual member institutions of the formal rural network are more likely to share resources and avoid unnecessary duplication of services, which results in savings to the overall health care system.

Considering all the potential benefits, one might ask why any rural health care institution would avoid pursuing a formal health network. The major obstacle is that in order for a rural network to be recognized as a formal, each individual member institution must give up some autonomy. A formal network is a legal arrangement (between at least 3 separately owned organizations),

Rural entities that are in the early stages of development can seek a one-time \$85,000 grant to fund these types of activities (memorandums, bylaws, governing body, strategic plan) through HRSA's Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program. The planning grant program is typically announced in late summer with an October deadline. More information on the planning grant can be found at http://upstream.grantsoffice.com/GrantDetails.aspx?grant_id=20236

requiring a memorandum of understanding (or agreement), establishment of a governing board, and the creation of bylaws. Several forces prevent rural entities from exploring health care networks, including apprehension on the behalf of executive officers to relinquish autonomy, community ownership of a rural facility, historical significance of the health care entity and disagreement amongst potential participants as to the details of the arrangement.

Considering the level of investment in these entities by HRSA, chief executives at rural health care

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institutions across United States will need to take a second look to determine if the pros now outweigh the potential cons. Once a formal relationship is established, HRSA makes additional money available to these networks to carry out various activities. The **Rural Health Network Development Program**

(http://upstream.grantsoffice.com/GrantDetails.aspx?grant_id=19549)

provides networks with up to \$540,000 over three years to achieve

economies of scale, consolidate administrative functions, enhance workforce recruitment and retention, share staff and expertise across the network, improve quality of care across the continuum, perform continuous quality improvement activities and gain access to capital and new technologies. This particular program usually is announced in late summer with a due date in November.

While it may not be feasible and necessary for all rural health care entities to eventually find partners and

create formal networks, the future of the funding streams supporting rural health care is targeted in that direction. In fact, HRSA just recently announced \$12 million in FY 2012 funding to assist rural health care entities that are part of formal networks with adopting EHR, achieving meaningful use and realizing the Medicare/Medicaid Incentives (see box below). For rural entities that typically operate on the thinnest of margins, or at a loss, the idea of creating or joining a formal health network may no longer be an option.

HRSA's Rural Health Information Technology Network Development (RHITND) Program will provide rural health networks with funding that can be used for any and all activities relating to achievement of meaningful use. This can include adoption of EHR, health information exchange, training and associated expenses. A network can request up to \$900,000 over a three year project period. The due date for applications is 8pm Eastern Time on May 27, 2011. More information on RHITND can be found at http://upstream.grantsoffice.com/GrantDetails.aspx?grant_id=31014.

EDUCATION UPDATE: Race to the Top (Again!)

As a part of the final deal on FY2011 appropriations, Congress afforded Race to the Top an additional \$700 million. While this is a steep drop from its initial \$4 billion investment under the Recovery Act, it still represents a significant win for the Obama administration as it seeks to sustain one of its signature grant programs and education reform initiatives.

The details of how Race to the Top: The Sequel will be implemented are still scarce, as neither Congress nor the U.S. Department of Education released much guidance on future competitions. However, Congress did specify a new priority for a Race to the Top competition: Early Childhood Learning. Previously, Race to the Top focused on High Standards and Assessments, Use of Data to Improve Instruction, Great Teachers and Leaders, and Turning Around Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools.

The new priority has increased speculation there may be a grant competition focused solely on early childhood education innovations. The administration has also previously expressed interest in expanding eligibility to include local school districts, not just state departments of education. Whatever the intent of the Department, we should know soon as funds must be allocated by December 31, 2011.



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2011 Webcasts

- **May 17, 2011:** Exploring the Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP)
- **May 24, 2011:** Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)
- **May 26, 2011:** Engaging AHRQ for Health IT, sponsored by Cisco

June 2011 Webcasts

- **June 9, 2011:** Funding Higher Ed: Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), sponsored by Cisco
- **June 14, 2011:** Tribal Funding Overview
- **June 21, 2011:** Grantwriting Series: 10 Tips for Getting More Tribal Grants
- **June 28, 2011:** Competitive Department of Energy Grants
- **June 30, 2011:** Funding for Rural Healthcare Initiatives, sponsored by Philips

Register for upcoming or view previous webcasts at <http://grantsofficeevents.webex.com>

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