



Date: March 23, 2012
To: BLAs
From: Lt. Spencer Cole, Chair, Preparedness and Response Committee

On February 17, 2012, FEMA released Information Bulletin #380, which provided details on the seven FY 2012 preparedness grant programs that are available this year, including the FY 2012 Port Security Grant Program.

FY 2012 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)*

The PSGP provides \$97,500,000 for transportation infrastructure security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans among port authorities, facility operators, and state and local government agencies required to provide port security services. The purpose of the FY 2012 PSGP is to support increased port-wide risk management; enhance domain awareness; conduct training and exercises; expand port recovery and resiliency capabilities; further capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other non-conventional weapons; and competitively award grant funding to assist ports in obtaining the resources required to support the NPG's associated mission areas and core capabilities.

As a result of a 39.5% decrease from the FY 2011 appropriation, the following changes should be noted:

- The Fiduciary Agent process will not be utilized in the FY 2012 PSGP. Eligible applicants will apply directly to FEMA for PSGP funding.
- Similar to the structure utilized for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), all applicants will compete for funding within their group without target allocations for specific port areas.
- Priorities for PSGP support the implementation of PPD-8 and the NPG. FY 2012 PSGP has been aligned to the five mission areas and supporting core capabilities within the NPG.
- Applicants may only apply for up to three projects.
- Applicants will be required to provide a cost-match (50% for private entities and 25% for public entities/consortia) for submitted projects. In-kind expenses (salaries, operations costs, fuel, etc.) can be listed as an organization's cost match.
- Operational expenses have been approved as an allowable cost.
- The period of performance for the award has been reduced from 36 to 24 months.

On February 21, you were provided with the FY 2012 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), which explains the grant and the application process. The FY12 PSGP FOA is available at <http://www.fema.gov/grants>.

The National Preparedness Goal (NPG) is available: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/prepared/npg.pdf>.

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria

All port areas are assigned to groups based on relative risk rankings. The highest risk ports are designated as Group I, lower risk ports are assigned to Group II, and the lowest risk ports are assigned to Group III. Those ports that are not assigned to a specific group fall into the “All Other Ports” category. To ensure the highest risk ports receive the bulk of available funds, the majority of funding will be allocated to those port areas in Group I. Port areas will compete for the funds allocated to their respective groups.

FEMA will conduct an initial review of all FY 2012 PSGP applications for completion. Field-level reviews are conducted by the applicable COTP in coordination with the Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration’s Gateway Office and appropriate personnel from the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC), as identified by the COTP. Field review project scores and prioritized lists will be submitted to FEMA for the national review process. The National Review Panel (NRP) will convene with subject matter experts from DHS and other federal partners to identify a final, prioritized list of eligible projects for funding. The NRP will conduct an initial review of the prioritized project listings for each port area submitted by the USCG’s COTP to ensure that the proposed projects will accomplish intended risk mitigation goals. The NRP will validate and normalize the Field Review COTP Project Priority List and provide a master list of prioritized projects by port area. A risk-based algorithm will be applied to the NRP’s validation and prioritized lists for each port area in all groups. The NRP will then evaluate and validate the consolidated and ranked project list resulting from application of the algorithm and submitted their determinations to FEMA and then to the Secretary of DHS for final approval.

If you have any questions or require assistance with the application process, please contact John Fetterman, john.fetterman@nasbla.org, or Mark DuPont, mark.dupont@nasbla.org.