

County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive
Office of Emergency Services




CE06 011309

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DATE: January 13, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Gary A. Graves
Acting County Executive

SUBJECT: Recognition of 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program Funding

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

Possible action:

- a. Accept 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) award of \$4,188,404.
- b. Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 120 - \$4,188,404 increasing revenues and expenditures in the Office of the County Executive, Office of the Sheriff, and the Public Health Department, and the Contingency Reserve. (4/5 Roll Call Vote).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The County has been awarded \$4,188,404 in 2008 Homeland Security Program grant funds. The appropriation modification recognizes these revenues that offset the cost of various positions, equipment purchases and training/exercise programs in FY 2009 and subsequent years of the grant performance period.

The appropriation modification establishes reimbursements totaling \$385,000 in the Office of the Sheriff (\$150,000), and the Public Health Department (\$235,000) for positions and contracts funded by the grant program. One EMS position, one Sheriff position, and 50% of the Grants Manager position in OES are supported by the HSGP funds, which are approved off-cycle from the County fiscal year. A transfer of \$397,012 to the Contingency Reserve recognizes the cost offset associated with the 2008 grant cycle.

CONTRACT HISTORY

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

On November 20th, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security notified the Office of the County Executive that the Operational Area's grant application detailing proposed expenditures for \$4,188,404 in 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding had been approved.

FY2008 HSGP funds were allocated to the local Operational Area through two programs:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) - \$3,867,183; and
- Metropolitan Medical Response System Grants (MMRS) - \$321,221.

The 2008 HSGP seeks to build on progress made over the past six years towards enhancing the capabilities of state and local first responders. Funds have been approved for allocation as shown on the attached summary of grant activities. As in the previous years, the grant program allows for the purchase of advanced types of equipment to enhance homeland security.

The 2008 HSGP differs slightly from previous grants years in that the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) has been absorbed into the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) but with the stipulation that 25 percent of the funding is dedicated towards law enforcement terrorism prevention planning, organization, training, exercise and equipment activities. This stipulation is reflected in the array of approved SHSP activities.

An important ongoing goal for the Approval Authority in this grant cycle was to continue funding four of the eight positions originally created in 2005 to implement SHSP programs and provide staff coverage for planning and administrative activities. The following positions continue to be funded with Homeland Security Grant funds:

- The Sheriff's Office Countywide Multi-hazard, Multi-discipline Task Force (CMTF) position;
- The County Fire CMTF position;
- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Terrorism Training Coordinator; and
- The Grants Manager position in the Office of Emergency Services (funded at 50%).

Due to funding restrictions imposed by the State on the percentage of funding that could be allocated for personnel, staffing levels in the 2007 grant cycle were reduced by 4 positions. Contracted positions could and still can be brought in. As they are not identified as staffing in the grant guidance, they do not fall under the funding restrictions.

BACKGROUND

HGSP grant guidelines require Operational Areas to appoint an Anti-Terrorism Approval Body (known as the Approval Authority), which makes the final determination on the Operational Area allocation of grant funds. The Approval Authority consists of the County Sheriff, County Public Health Officer or designee responsible for Emergency Medical Services, County Fire Chief or Chief Fire Authority, a Municipal Fire Chief, and a Chief of Police. The Santa Clara County Fire Chief's Association selects the municipal fire chief representative, and the Santa Clara County Police Chief's Association selects the chief of police representative.

In August 2008, Santa Clara County was notified that the local Operational Area's grant allocation for the 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) would be \$4,188,404. The award amounts are determined by the State on a base allocation according to the USA Patriot ACT formula, with the remainder allocated based on analysis of relative risk and anticipated effectiveness of proposed solutions. The 2008 Homeland Security Grant has a performance period of October 23, 2008 through May 31, 2011.

Requests for grant funding were sent out on June 2, 2008 to City and County agencies and community based organizations, with a proposal due date of June 27, 2008. Each submitted request was then reviewed by one of four disciplines. The Fire Chief's Association prioritized requests from Fire agencies, the Police Chief's Association prioritized request from Law Enforcement agencies, the Public Health Officer prioritized requests from Health/Medical agencies, and representatives from the Santa Clara County Emergency Managers Association prioritized all other requests (county agencies, community-based organizations, etc.) The prioritized requests were then brought forward to the Approval Authority on August 12th, for further review, discussion, and final recommendation. The funding recommendations were submitted with the grant application in August 2008. Notification of the grant award was received on November 20, 2008.

The Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for administering the Homeland Security grants, monitoring activities to ensure compliance with grant guidelines, and coordinating grant related activities between other agencies, including Public Health, the Office of the Sheriff, the Central Fire District, local cities, and community-based organizations.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve these actions will prevent the Operational Area from accessing the funding necessary to address critical public safety needs and enhance homeland security.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

No steps following approval for the Clerk of the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2008 Allocated Project Funding
- 2008 Homeland Security Grant