

Homeland Security/Public Safety



HOMELAND SECURITY

Request: Maintain current U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant structure for state and local grant programs and oppose establishment of the proposed National Preparedness Grant Program until more details regarding implementation are known and additional stakeholder participation in development is sought.

Maintain or increase funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program (UASI) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).

Maintain or increase funding for the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) task forces.

Fully fund the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).

Background:

Homeland security continues to be a highly visible, core responsibility for the nation's frontline police and fire personnel. The city of Phoenix has worked diligently since 9/11 to integrate communication between the city of Phoenix Office of Emergency Management and Police and Fire departments by forming the Phoenix Homeland Defense Bureau. This partnership prepares the city to better respond to natural, human-caused or terrorist crises. In addition to being able to assist smaller agencies statewide, Phoenix public safety personnel often are deployed to other regions of the country and internationally during an emergency.



Issues:

UASI – As the sixth largest city in America, it is critical that the Phoenix region remain on the UASI list and receive an allocation that correlates with its risk factors and activities. The city of Phoenix saw its UASI funding decrease from \$7.76 million in FFY 2011 to \$4.0 million in FFY 2012. Phoenix is in serious jeopardy

of losing additional funding or even being eliminated as a UASI as Congress continues to call for reductions in the number of regions receiving UASI funding. Three years ago, there were 64 UASI regions, which was reduced to 31 regions in FFY 2011. The House Homeland Security Appropriations subcommittee called for further reductions to the number of regions receiving funding in its FFY 2013 report.



The risk model used to allocate homeland security grants considers the potential risk of terrorism to people, critical infrastructure and economic security faced by a given area. The city of Phoenix requests that DHS and the U.S. Department of Justice share the appropriate data to correctly assess the region's risk.

USAR – The city of Phoenix has played a significant role in national emergency declaration response and has grown its response teams significantly. Now, more than ever, it is critical to maintain response capabilities and for its first responders to exercise those capabilities. Most recently, the Phoenix USAR team deployed to New York to assist with Hurricane Sandy response and recovery. The USAR program is authorized at \$35 million per year; however, each of the 28 nationwide task forces have an

annual estimated cost of \$1.6 million, for a total of \$56 million. The city of Phoenix requests full funding for the USAR program. Additionally, the city has many projects and programs that have been identified as innovative best practices by DHS in its 2009 review. Our Terrorism Liaison Officer Program, Community Emergency Response Teams and the Rapid Response Teams are just a few programs that have received national recognition.

To preserve these critical programs, the city of Phoenix seeks assurance that the region's homeland security funding will continue. This will allow the city to maintain our homeland security mission at current levels and protect our residents, critical infrastructure and key resources.



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