



Homeland  
Security

*Office of Grants and Training*

# UASI Urban Areas Security Initiative

*“We must prepare to minimize the damage and recover from any future terrorist attacks that may occur despite our best efforts at prevention. Past experience has shown that preparedness efforts are key to providing an effective response to major terrorist incidents.”*

—National Strategy for Homeland Security

## **UASI PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The UASI Program provides financial assistance to address the unique multi-disciplinary planning, operations, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and to assist them in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism. UASI funding remains primarily focused on enhancing capabilities to address CBRNE, agriculture, and cyber-terrorism incidents; however, in support of national ongoing preparedness initiatives addressing such issues as pandemic influenza and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the allowable scope of UASI Program activities was expanded in FY 2006 to include catastrophic events, provided that these activities also build capabilities that relate to terrorism.

Program Participants may use UASI funding to achieve or enhance all of the 37 target capabilities, as long as they enhance the capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, or recover from acts of terrorism. UASI Program award amounts are determined based on a risk- and effectiveness-based approach. The grant guidance suggests that Urban Areas take an inclusive regional approach and involve contiguous jurisdictions, mutual aid partners, port authorities, rail and transit authorities, State agencies, Citizen Corps Council(s), and Metropolitan Medical Response System(s) (MMRS) in their program activities. Each

State develops an Investment Justification detailing the projects they wish to use UASI Program funding to implement. Proposed Investments under the UASI Program should focus on the National Priorities and the most urgent State/local priorities.

The UASI Program was first authorized in Fiscal Year 2003 and has since grown to include 58 urban areas.

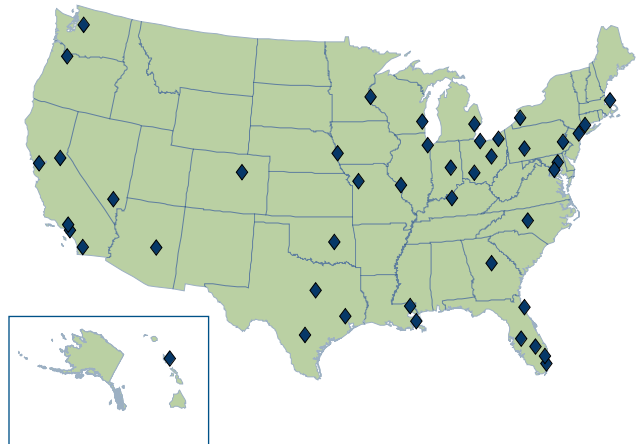
## **SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GOAL AND ENHANCED REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

The UASI Program directly supports the National Preparedness Goal and the Regional Collaboration National Priority, making a significant step forward toward the development of integrated regional systems for prevention, protection, response, and recovery in our Nation’s at-risk urban areas. Program participants are encouraged to broaden the definition of their urban area to integrate existing operational systems into cohesive metropolitan regions.

Approaching risk on a regional basis pools knowledge and understanding of the kinds of events that may occur, the vulnerability to these events, and the scope and scale of impact. This allows more comprehensive identification, analysis, treatment, reduction of probability, limitation of consequences, and preparations than could be achieved individually. Jurisdictions that share risk can prepare more efficiently,

## Nationwide UASI Urban Areas

Anaheim/Santa Ana Area	Honolulu Area	Omaha Area*
Atlanta Area	Houston Area	Orlando Area
Baltimore Area	Indianapolis Area	Philadelphia Area
Baton Rouge Area*	Jacksonville Area	Phoenix Area*
Boston Area	Jersey City/Newark Area	Pittsburgh Area
Buffalo Area*	Kansas City Area	Portland Area
Charlotte Area	Las Vegas Area*	Sacramento Area*
Chicago Area	Los Angeles/Long Beach Area	San Antonio Area
Cincinnati Area	Louisville Area*	San Diego Area*
Cleveland Area	Miami Area	San Francisco Bay Area
Columbus Area	Milwaukee Area	Seattle Area
Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Area	National Capital Region	St. Louis Area
Denver Area	New Orleans Area	Tampa Area*
Detroit Area	New York City Area	Toledo Area*
Fort Lauderdale Area	Oklahoma City Area*	Twin Cities Area



\*FY05 UA eligible for sustainment funding.

and respond more effectively through development of interconnected and complementary systems.

Major events, as demonstrated by the attacks of September 11, 2001 and more recently by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, have wide-ranging regional impacts. Approaching risk on a regional basis allows States and jurisdictions to coordinate preparedness activities more effectively, spread costs, pool resources, share risk, and thereby increase the overall return on investment for the preparedness dollar.

### GOVERNANCE

To provide effective program governance and coordinate program implementation, each urban area shall establish an Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) to act as an executive steering committee to provide overall governance of the homeland security program across the regional area encompassed within the defined urban area. Responsibilities of the UAWG include coordinating development and implementa-

tion of all program initiatives (including development of the Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy, investment identification and justification, funding allocation methodologies, in cooperation with the SAA, and any direct services that are delivered by G&T). The UAWG is also responsible for ensuring that all programmatic requirements associated with participation in the UASI Program are fulfilled.

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

The intent of the grant is to establish a metropolitan area-wide approach to homeland security. Therefore, the use and allocation of all grant funds available through the FY 2006 UASI Program must focus on the investments identified in the Urban Area's Investment Justification and the implementation of the validated Urban Area Homeland Security Strategy. The use of funds must also be consistent with the State Homeland Security Strategy, the Program Capability Enhancement Plan, and the UASI Program guidelines.

### AUTHORIZED PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

UASI Program funding may be used to support planning, organization, equipment, training, exercises, personnel, and management and administration. Direct services to urban areas are available in the areas of training and exercises support. Technical assistance is also available to States and urban area jurisdictions upon request and provided free-of-charge in the areas of planning and equipment procurement support.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) or other initiatives of the Office of Grants and Training (G&T), please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at **1-800-368-6498** or [askcsid@dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@dhs.gov).