



NEWS RELEASE

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June 22, 2010

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National Capital Region Urban Area Selects Homeland Security Projects to Fund to Enhance Regional Resilience

Local and state homeland security and emergency management officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), representing the District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell announced today how they plan to spend \$59 million in federal homeland security grant funds. This amount mirrors the investment that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made in the NCR in FY2010. The funding will be used to support projects designed to support mass transit, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, health and medical, mass care and emergency management needs in alignment with the NCR Homeland Security Strategic Plan.

In May, DHS announced how much money would be available to the NCR through the Urban Areas Security Initiative Program (UASI). Some of the projects to be funded include:

- **Chemical/Biological Sensors for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority:** The region will allocate money to maintain the equipment necessary to detect the release of chemical and biological agents in Metro stations. These sensors, located in key stations across the region, provide early warning of a chemical or biological attack.
- **Bomb Squad Equipment:** The region will maintain or replace expired equipment for the nine, nationally accredited bomb squads found in the NCR. This includes bomb suits, digital x-ray equipment, and electronic jammers to prevent the explosion of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

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National Capital Region Selects Homeland Security Projects to Fund (cont.)

- **Medical Surge Capacity:** The region will continue to fund a program that allows emergency rooms (ERs) to track the real-time location of ambulances from every hospital in the region. ERs also will be able to monitor the treatment capacities at every hospital. This program will help the region's 34 hospitals to better prepare and collaborate to address and treat patients during a surge event.
- **Information Sharing/Fusion Center Support:** Funding will be focused on maintaining an information sharing system that continues the region's commitment to effective information gathering, analysis and sharing throughout the four regional Fusion/Intelligence Analysis Centers.
- **Situational Awareness and Transportation Management Tool:** The region will develop an information sharing system designed to give emergency managers and other preparedness and response partners a common, regional operating picture. This system will synthesize data from the transportation, public health, and emergency management systems to better inform situational awareness. The tool will assist with local decision making and activities that will have regional implications to include coordinated decisions on evacuations, shelter in place or other actions.
- **Personal Preparedness:** Support will be provided to Volunteer Centers and Citizen Corps Councils throughout the region to allow for the recruitment, training and ongoing engagement of volunteers who will assist with sharing the preparedness message to communities at a grass roots level. To ensure ongoing, just-in-time alerting of residents during emergencies or other events, the region will continue to fund the text alert systems used to facilitate the sending of emergency alerts to cell phones, email accounts and pagers.

To ensure UASI monies are spent effectively and efficiently, the region channels this funding to accomplishing goals set forth in its Homeland Security Strategic Plan. Projects are also prioritized and reviewed by the homeland security and emergency management officials for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, along with local city and county administrators.

Past UASI grants have increased the capacity of public safety officials to communicate across jurisdictional boundaries by enhancing interoperable communications; provided the opportunity for training and exercise of responders; driven the full development of regional plans designed to address evacuation, mass care and continuity of operations planning needs; supported the web-based emergency operations center hardware and software needs; supported the emergency alerts and notifications systems; educated the public on disaster preparedness; assisted special needs populations to prepare for major emergencies; increased medical readiness; and equipped first responders to respond to all-hazards.

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National Capital Region Selects Homeland Security Projects to Fund (cont.)

The NCR's elected officials, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and public health personnel, along with the nonprofit and private sectors, work together across the region's jurisdictional boundaries to improve the region's overall resilience.

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About the National Capital Region

The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William in Virginia and Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland, which include the municipalities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville and Takoma Park.

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