



NEWS RELEASE

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Homeland Security Grants Awarded to the National Capital Region

Today, homeland security officials said the National Capital Region will receive \$59.8 million in federal homeland security funds from the Urban Areas Security Initiative Program (UASI) for fiscal year 2008.

The announcement came from local and state officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), representing the District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine.

The money was awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This year the region had requested \$95.5 million in UASI funds based on needs identified by its strategic plan and risk assessments.

Officials also noted that the region will get \$11.5 million from the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program.

This is the first year that catastrophic preparedness grants were offered by the Department of Homeland Security. These grants are intended to help high-risk urban areas plan for catastrophic emergencies like the detonation of a nuclear bomb. The region will work with Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia on planning projects related to transportation; mass care; public education and awareness; behavioral analysis; resource management and logistics; and modeling and simulation.

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Homeland Security Grants Awarded to the National Capital Region (cont.)

As in the past, this year's UASI funds will be used to improve the region's readiness for disasters. The funds will be focused in five key areas: law enforcement; improvised explosive device prevention and protection; preparedness planning; health and medical readiness; and community preparedness and response. In particular, these funds will be used to strengthen the region's capacity to provide medical treatment in the event of a major emergency. Later this summer, officials will announce the specific projects to be funded.

The National Capital Region — which is comprised of 11 local jurisdictions, two states and the District of Columbia — prepares for disasters collaboratively. This unique regional structure, in the area that is home to the nation's capital with the associated elevated risks, requires an equally complex system to determine how to best and most equitably allocate scarce resources such as UASI funds.

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 identify and prioritize projects to improve the region's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Past UASI grants have been used to prepare, train, and equip law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, transportation, public health and other first responders, improving their capabilities to prevent and respond to a wide range of potential hazards in the NCR. The funding has also been used to assist public safety officials to communicate across jurisdictional boundaries by enhancing interoperable communications; offer emergency alerts and notifications to the public; educate the public on disaster preparedness; assist special needs populations to prepare for major emergencies; increase medical readiness; and equip first responders to respond to all types of hazardous situations.

The National Capital Region invests in disaster preparations in an efficient, regionally coordinated manner, and focuses the region's homeland security spending on the greatest risks and needs.

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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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