



# Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office

## Homeland Security Grants Division

### Funding Announcement: Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)

## Purpose

Through this announcement, the Office of the Governor (OOG) Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) offers information to supplement federal program guidance. This notice is intended to complement, rather than replace, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released each year by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The purpose of the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grant program, one of three programs within the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), is to enhance cooperation and coordination among Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and local, Tribal, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the United States' borders.

## Available Funding

Federal funds are authorized under Section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended (Pub. L. No. 107-296), (6 U.S.C. 603). OPSG funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

## Eligible Organizations\*

1. Units of local government;
2. State agencies; and
3. Federally Recognized Native American tribes.
4. Eligible county level and tribal applicants must be located within one of the five (5) U.S. Border Patrol Sectors and have active ongoing USBP operations coordinated through that sector:
  - a) **Big Bend/Marfa Sector** – Brewster County, Crane County, Culberson County, Hudspeth County, Jeff Davis County, Loving County, Presidio County, Reeves County, Terrell County and Ward County.
  - b) **Del Rio Sector** - Dimmit County, Kinney County, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Maverick County, Sutton County, Uvalde County, Val Verde County and Zavala County.
  - c) **El Paso Sector** – El Paso County and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe.
  - d) **Laredo Sector** – Duval County, Frio County, Jim Hogg County, La Salle County, McMullen County, Webb County and Zapata County.
  - e) **Rio Grande Valley Sector** – Aransas County, Bee County, Calhoun County, Cameron County, Hidalgo County, Jackson County, Jim Wells County, Kenedy County, Kleberg County, Matagorda County, Nueces County, Refugio County, San Patricio County, Starr County, Victoria County and Willacy County.

*\* HSGD is the only entity eligible to apply to DHS/FEMA for OPSG funds. Cities, Counties, State Agencies, and Tribes should contact their respective USBP Sector Representative to express interest in participating in operations.*

## Application Process

Eligible county level and federally recognized tribal governments must develop their applications (Operations Orders) in coordination with State and Federal law enforcement agencies, to include, but not limited to CBP/USBP. The Operations Orders should be inclusive of city, county, Tribal, and other local law enforcement agencies that are eligible to participate in OPSG operational activities. Agencies should contact their respective USBP Sector for the most current application (Operations Order) template: <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/along-us-borders/border-patrol-sectors>

After DHS/FEMA allocations are announced, approved applicants will be contacted by HSGD and must access the Office of the Governor's eGrants website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding within the OOG's grant management system. Additional requirements are included within the online application.

**Note for All Applicants:** Applicants must upload the required Texas Direct Deposit Authorization Form, Texas Application for Payee Identification Number Form, and the IRS W9 Form for each application prior to submission. The eGrants system will not allow an application to be submitted until these forms are attached to the application. These forms are available for download from eGrants at <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/updates.aspx> under the Financial Management section of "Forms and Guides" or from the "Forms" link on the Profile/Grant.Vendor tab within the grant application.

## Key Dates

Action	Date
Coordinate with USBP Sector Representative	ASAP - Ongoing
FEMA NOFO Release	TBD
Due Date for Applicants to Submit Application to USBP Sector	NOFO +10 days
Deadline for HSGD to Submit State's Application to FEMA	TBD by NOFO
FEMA Releases OPSG Allocation Amounts	July/August
Due Date for Approved Grantees to Submit Campaign Plan to USBP Sector	October 31

## Project Period

Projects selected for funding must begin on or after March 1 and expire on February 28 the following year unless HSGD has approved an alternate performance period for the applicant's OPSG activities.

## Funding Levels

Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

## Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

## Eligible Activities and Costs

### 1. PERSONNEL - OVERTIME

- a) Overtime for increased patrol and/or investigative capacity for certified peace officers.

- b) Overtime for law enforcement support personnel. These costs may include overtime for personnel necessary to support officers that are on patrol and participating in border security operations, such as Jailer overtime, or Communications Officer/Dispatcher overtime, necessary to maintain a safe Officer to Dispatcher ratio.
- c) Overtime for non-exempt administrative personnel supporting border security grants. Funds for management and administration of the OPSG award must be limited to no more than 5% of the total award.
- d) Overtime for law enforcement support should be limited and anything greater than 10% may not be funded or may require significant additional data and justification.
- e) Applicants must provide a copy of the local overtime policy as approved by its governing board. This policy will be considered the official policy for grant purposes and must be used throughout the grant period. The policy must:
  - i. Clearly describe how overtime will be calculated;
  - ii. Be consistent with the agency's local overtime policy;
  - iii. Treat overtime for grant-paid personnel the same as non-grant paid personnel.
- f) Project Overtime (OT) shall be reimbursed following the grantee's overtime policy and the requirements as stated below:
  - i. OT is time actually worked that exceeds the required number of hours during an employee's designated work period, as per grantee's policies and procedures.
  - ii. OT must be worked to support border security operations.
  - iii. The project OT rate shall be no more than one-and-one-half (1.5) times the employee's regular pay rate.
  - iv. Exempt salaried employees working border security operations may be reimbursed for overtime only if the grantee's overtime policy specifically allows for this.
  - v. HSGD will only reimburse the grantee for OT that does not exceed a total of 16 hours worked (regular plus OT) during any 24-hour period.

## 2. **PERSONNEL - REGULAR or STRAIGHT-TIME**

- a) Augmentees: Personnel costs for law enforcement personnel who are not regular employees of a funded agency, but are brought on as needed to specifically cover border security operations so that there can be a force multiplier during a period of "surge."
- b) Regular time for law enforcement personnel working border operations. Grant funds must be used to supplement existing funds and not supplant funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose.
- c) Part-time to Full-Time: Personnel costs for part-time law enforcement personnel in order to bring them to temporary full-time status.
- d) Regular time for administrative personnel supporting border security grant activities. Funds for management and administration of the OPSG award must be limited to no more than 5% of the total award.

3. **EQUIPMENT:** Costs for equipment, or the rental of equipment, which will benefit the border security mission and will be routinely utilized during OPSG operations.

4. **TRAVEL:** Costs for domestic travel and per diem, including costs associated with the deployment or redeployment of personnel to border areas and for travel associated with law enforcement entities assisting other local jurisdictions in law enforcement activities.

5. **SUPPLIES and DIRECT OPERATING EXPENSE:** Certain operational costs are also allowable, such as vehicle operating costs or costs for minor emergency repairs as described below, or for other services pre-approved by the HSGD that are critical to success of the program.
  - a) The cost of fuel, lubricants, and minor emergency repairs or maintenance for vehicles, aircraft, boats, generators, and similar equipment used during the hours in which grant-funded staff are working.
  - b) Only actual expenses supported by invoiced gas, oil, and repair or maintenance receipts may be reimbursed under this grant.
  - c) Maintenance costs must be prorated to show the usage of vehicles or equipment for regular law enforcement duties as compared to usage while officers are working grant-paid patrols.
  - d) The cost of minor emergency repairs, such as tire repair or fan belt replacement, to vehicles or equipment used in program operations is allowable.

## Program-Specific Requirements

1. Agencies receiving funds must coordinate and meet as a member of the OPSG Integrated Planning Team (IPT) to develop operational plans in response to the needs of the USBP Sector.
2. Grantees must integrate law enforcement partners from contiguous counties and towns into their tactical operations to expand the layer of security beyond existing areas.
3. Grantees may not expend funds until each unique and specific county-level or equivalent Operational Order/Fragmentary Operations Order budget has been reviewed and approved by DHS/FEMA.
4. Agencies must provide accurate, consistent, and timely reporting of how funds are used, and how the agencies' operations have impacted border security through the mitigation of threat or vulnerability and the overall reduction of risk. Reporting will focus on: monitoring program performance; determining the level of integration and information sharing; and developing best practices for future operations. To ensure consistent reporting each agency will identify a single point of contact to coordinate the submission of reports or execute other aspects of the grant.
  - a) The **Daily Activity Report (DAR)** is used to submit the ongoing results and outputs from the OPSG operations conducted. The information and statistics included in the DAR will be delineated by agency (friendly forces). The DAR must be submitted to the USBP Sector, or the participating agency's OPSG coordinator, within 48-hours of the conclusion of each OPSG shift.
  - b) The **After Action Report (AAR)** articulates outcomes and outputs, as well as how the results of the operation compared with the objectives identified during the preplanning meeting. After Action Reports must be submitted to USBP sectors within 10 days of closing the operational Period of Performance for that funding year.

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>).
2. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://sam.gov/>.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

## Prohibitions

Grant funds may **not** be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
2. lobbying;
3. any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
4. vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
5. weapons, ammunition, tasers, or explosives;
6. admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
7. promotional gifts;
8. food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments, except for eligible per diem associated with grant-related travel;
9. membership dues for individuals;
10. any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project;
11. any use of grant funds to replace (supplant) funds that have been budgeted for the same purpose through non-grant sources;
12. fundraising;
13. construction;
14. medical services;
15. legal services for adult offenders; and
16. any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

## Selection Process

**Application Screening:** HSGD will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement.

**Peer/Merit Review:** Applications (Operations Orders) will be developed and updated by the IPT. Additional review will be completed by HSGD staff in consultation with USBP and FEMA representatives. Funding decisions will be based on eligibility, past compliance with grant requirements, and USBP operational needs.

**Final Decisions – All Projects:** All funding amounts approved by HSGD ultimately tie to funding for activities and costs approved by USBP and DHS/FEMA in formal written Operations Orders.

## Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.