

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM 15: GRANT PROPOSAL – URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) FISCAL YEAR 2011 APPLICATION

SUBJECT:

The HRPDC Emergency Management staff has worked diligently with the Hampton Roads Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) in the FY11 Department of Homeland Security's UASI Grant Program application process. The application for grant funds for the FY 2011 UASI Grant Program has been completed for submission to the Department of Homeland Security.

BACKGROUND:

The FY11 grant cycle began with the application process that was initiated in May 2011 through a coordinated effort with the UAWG, Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, and Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Prior to the grant application period and over the course of seven months, the UAWG worked through all of its members and/or respective stakeholders (Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Management, Communications, etc.) to solicit, develop, and approve proposals for projects that meet the criteria for the proposed UASI grant. The grant guidelines were released on May 19, 2011, versus the normal anticipated time frame of November 2010 due to the passage of the Congressional budget. These proposals, known as investment justifications, have been vetted through the UAWG and will be submitted to VDEM for review, which in turn, will be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security for vetting, review, approval, and awarding of funds.

The grant application is for \$5.14 Million in federal funds to support approximately seven (7) projects in the areas of law enforcement, emergency communications, incident management teams and critical infrastructure. Grant funds will be utilized during FY 2012 through 2014.

Hampton Roads was designated a UASI region for the FY07 Grant cycle and has successfully been granted UASI funding for the FY07, FY08, FY09 and FY10 cycles. The UASI grant is one of several grants that falls under the umbrella of the Homeland Security Grant Program. The UASI program addresses the unique multi-disciplinary planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and assists in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism. The UASI program directly supports the National Priority on expanding regional collaboration in the National Preparedness Guidelines and is intended to assist participating jurisdictions in developing integrated regional systems and/or assets for prevention, protection, response, and recovery.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit the proposed grant application on behalf of the Urban Area Working Group and to accept a grant award when offered.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

See attached.

Summary of Current Status of UASI Funding

The FY 2011 UASI grant awards were announced on May 19, 2011 and the reduction from 64 to 31 UASI regions caught many by surprise. While there was an expectation that the UASI list might go down to 40-45 in the FY11 funding cycle; 31 was a deeper cut than was expected. Hampton Roads survived this year's reduction, but in FY12, Hampton Roads may not be as fortunate as the proposed legislation looks to reduce the UASI regions to 10; the highest risk areas of the nation. Hampton Roads would not qualify as one of those 10 regions.

However, on June 2 2011, the House of Representatives, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, voted on amendments offered to the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill Amendment. Two of these dealt with the language of HB 2017 that limited the number of UASIs to ten.

1. An amendment to strike language relating to the top 10 highest risk urban areas was offered by Mr. Clarke (MI). That amendment passed at 1:28 P.M. – “On agreeing to the Clarke (MI) amendment agreed to by recorded vote”
2. An amendment offered by Higgins (NY) removing language in HR 2017, the FY12 Homeland Security Appropriations bill that would restrict Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding to only 10 urban areas across the country 273-150, after 50+ nay votes switch yea when passage certain (Rs 143-92, Ds 130-58)

Time for guarded optimism. HR 2017 as amended still has to pass the Democrat controlled Senate, however, the Democratic membership on the House HS Appropriations Committee strongly urged the Republican Chair to remove the limitation on the number of UASIs. If the Senate amends the Bill, it will have to go to a House/Senate Conference committee. So there are still miles to go before we know the ultimate outcome. What is still not known is what effect this will have on DHS' unilateral decision to reduce the number of participating grant-eligible UASIs from 64 to 31 in FY 2011 funding.