Judge Don Pool
President

Councilmember Mike Thompson
Vice-President

**Heart of Texas
Council of Governments**

Judge Linda Grant
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

December 20, 2022

RE: FY 2023 State Homeland Security Program Grant

Dear Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) Regional Official,

Grant Applications are open for 2023 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) projects. The SHSP grant program is administered by the Office of the Governor (OOG) through the Texas eGrants electronic system. We anticipate that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) regional funding allocation will be less than the last few years, with approximately $475,000 in funding anticipated.

It is pertinent that you take a serious look at the terrorism risk, threat, vulnerability, and consequence needs of your jurisdiction and prioritize, in order of importance, any project you submit. Like in previous years, applications will be subject to a threat and risk prioritization with an emphasis on regional or priority projects.

Types of projects and equipment funded in the past that address terrorism include emergency preparedness planning, homeland security threat issues, critical infrastructure security, communication equipment, public warning and emergency notification systems, first responder training and exercises, training and equipment for special response teams, regional hazardous material team, regional bomb squad, and Citizen Corps programs.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established National Priority Areas (NPA) for the Homeland Security Grant Program. It requires the State to dedicate at least 30% of Texas' SHSP funds to projects under the NPAs. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects under these National Priority Areas when the primary core capability addressed is consistent with a National Priority Area description below.

Grant projects must be submitted in support of one of the following approved activity areas:

Community Preparedness and Resilience - (NPA – Required to Fund at least 3%)
Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places - (NPA – Required to Fund at least 3%)
Emergency Operations Centers and Technology
Support of First Responder Capabilities
Information and Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation – (NPA – Required to Fund at least 3%)
Interoperable Communications
Planning

The following is a summary of the grant requirements:

Who can apply:
State agencies, regional councils of governments, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, universities or colleges, and nonprofit organizations.

Eligibility Requirements:
The eligibility requirements for this grant opportunity are as follows:
- Compliance, policy, and documentation for the National Incident Management System (NIMS),
- Current approved emergency management plan or be part of a multi-jurisdictional emergency management program with a plan on file with TDEM,
- Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database and have a UEI (Unique Entity ID) number assigned to its agency,
- Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas-specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.,
- Attendance at least **one** HOTCOG 2023 Mandatory Application Workshop,
- Entities receiving funds from PSO must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66.
- All capabilities being built or sustained must have a clear link to one or more Core Capabilities in the National Preparedness Goal.
- Many capabilities which support terrorism preparedness simultaneously support preparedness for other hazards. Grantees must demonstrate this dual-use quality for any activities implemented under this program that are not explicitly focused on terrorism preparedness. Activities implemented under SHSP must support terrorism preparedness by building or sustaining capabilities that relate to prevention, protection, mitigation, response to, and/or recovery from terrorism.
- Grantees will be required to complete the 2023 Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR), enabling agencies to benchmark and measure the progress of improving their cybersecurity posture. The Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), or equivalent for each recipient agency should complete the NCSR. If there is no CIO or CISO, the most senior cybersecurity professional should complete the assessment. The NCSR is available at no cost.
- Local units of government must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code.
- Per Texas Government Code, Section 420.034, any facility or entity that collects evidence for sexual assault or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes a sexual assault or other sex offense for which evidence has been collected must participate in the

statewide electronic tracking system developed and implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Visit DPS's Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating.

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

Application Process:

Additional information, timelines, and documents can be found at www.hotready.com under the SHSP Toolkit icon. **Applications must be entered in the Texas eGrant System at** https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/. This is a complex system that requires time and research for the entry of grant application information. **After entry, jurisdictional representatives should review the entire eGrant application entry for correctness and the jurisdiction's Authorized Official must certify/submit the entry to the OOG by 5:00 PM, February 9, 2023.** HOTCOG Staff is available for assistance if needed.

- Each applying jurisdiction **must** have a representative/presenter attend the EPAC Meeting at 9:00 AM, February 15th, 2023, at the HOTCOG building located at 1514 S. New Road, Waco, TX, to provide application information and answer committee questions. Estimated presentation times will be provided to each applicant prior to the date of the meeting.

- It is mandatory for someone from your agency to *attend one* of the HOTCOG Grant Workshops below. Additional and detailed information and requirements will be provided at these workshops. The grant writer (GW), project director (PD), and financial officer (FO) are encouraged to attend.

The grant timeline is provided for the HOTCOG Regional FY2023 SHSP application process. Please note that this timeline and the entire process are subject to changes from the state.

If you should have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (254) 292-1854 or Harold.Ferguson@hot.cog.tx.us or Lana Gudgel at (254) 292-1891 or Lana.Gudgel@hot.cog.tx.us .