



New Jersey Office of
Homeland Security & Preparedness
NEWS

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Richard L. Cañas, Director

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For More Information Contact

Scott Kisch (609) 588-7250

Lt. Gerald Lewis, NJSP (609) 882-2000 x6516

**Two Additional Counties Awarded Homeland Security Grants for Local Emergency Operations Centers
-Funds can be used for Construction, Renovation and Installation of Key Equipment-**

HAMILTON — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas announced today Essex and Morris counties have been awarded funding under the federal fiscal year 2009 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program. In January, OHSP announced Atlantic and Hudson counties were allocated funding under the non-competitive portion of this federal grant program. Essex and Morris counties competed with other New Jersey counties and municipalities. In total, the four counties have been awarded \$3 million in federal funds to improve emergency management preparedness capabilities at their county emergency operations centers. Hudson and Morris counties were each awarded \$1 million, while Atlantic was awarded \$750,000 and Essex County was awarded \$250,000. Nationwide, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made available \$33 million for this program. \$20.6 million was awarded on a non-competitive basis while the remaining \$12.4 million has been awarded competitively. Last year DHS awarded more than \$14.5 million for 22 EOC construction and renovation projects throughout the country.

“We’re pleased that DHS has designated four New Jersey counties for EOC funding,” Cañas said. “These funds will ensure these critical counties - Essex, Hudson and Morris in the North and part of the state’s UASI area, and Atlantic in the South, have the resources they need to properly prepare for, respond to and recover from any type of emergency. Maintaining fully-functional county emergency operations centers supports our overall state homeland security and emergency management strategy.”

"All emergencies begin on a local level, so it's critical to support the improvement of county emergency operations centers. This money allows counties to better protect life and property in their communities and the entire region," said Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, which also serves as the State's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). "Through the coordination of the State OEM, New Jersey's counties collectively respond to the area in which an emergency occurs, so better equipped counties translate to a more prepared state."

“Considering Essex County’s strategic location, our potentially vulnerable infrastructure, our air, sea, land and rail transportation systems and our heavily populated area, this federal funding is vital to our community,” said Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura. “We will upgrade our interoperable radio communications systems and our central dispatch console at our Emergency Operations Center. We will also improve security at our EOC by upgrading surveillance cameras and controlled swipe card access to the facility.”

“We are pleased to receive federal homeland security funding to renovate our Emergency Management Operations Center,” said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. “This support will enable us to provide the most modern resources to our first responders so they can continue to effectively address



emergencies. This cooperation among various levels of government is a proactive approach to help us handle threats to the safety of our community.”

“Morris County is pleased to be provided funding that will enable us to expand and enhance our Emergency Operations Command Center,” said John Bonanni, Morris County Administrator. “This funding will promote improved coordination of all emergency services and be utilized by a multitude of local, county, state, and federal governmental entities.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2007 Population Estimates, Essex County is the state’s third most populous county with more than 776,000 residents. Hudson County is the state’s fifth most populous county with nearly 600,000 residents and Morris County is home to nearly 490,000 residents. The federal UASI program is designed to provide funding to high-threat, high-density urban areas to help them build capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. New Jersey’s UASI area, which consists of the seven counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Union, is one of 62 UASI areas in the nation as designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. New Jersey’s UASI is one of only seven Tier 1 areas considered by DHS to be at greater risk of terrorist attack. Since 2003, New Jersey’s UASI area has been awarded more than \$200 million.

Cañas said the grant funds must be used for construction or renovation costs such as structure hardening to resist natural and man-made hazards and the installation of certain equipment, including, but not limited to, cyber-security enhancement, interoperable communications and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) logistical support equipment. The grants require the counties to provide a 25 percent cash match-or-in-kind match.

Cañas also announced New Jersey was awarded more than \$87 million in additional federal homeland security funds, which will be managed directly by state and regional partner agencies. New Jersey was awarded \$33.6 million to improve security for mass transit, which remains one of the state’s highest homeland security priorities. More than \$45 million will go to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to enhance port security in the New Jersey-New York metro area. In addition, the state was awarded \$3.6 million under the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) to fund physical security on the perimeter of selected critical facilities. The state was also awarded \$1.4 million under the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program; \$1.1 million under the Drivers’ License Security Grant Program; \$2.5 million under the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program; and \$100,000 under the Freight Rail Security Grant Program. Cañas said that additional homeland security funding awards will be announced this summer.

Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) after taking office in 2006. OHSP is responsible for leading the state’s counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey. More information about OHSP can be found at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov.

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