



## The County Working Group Process

New Jersey has been and remains cognizant of the need to include and encourage the active involvement of pertinent participants representing all relevant disciplines in the process of homeland security planning. Within each county government, a multi-discipline working group is convened to act on the operational and procurement details of the programs. The County Working Group (CWG) is staffed with representatives from the various disciplines of first responders and key representatives of the county governmental structure believed to be the core disciplines needed to effectively and intelligently discuss issues relating to prevention, mitigation and recovery/response to a terrorist attack.

The members of the CWG meet regularly to prioritize and develop the strategies and spending plan proposals based upon the needs and information they receive from the county, municipal and private sector participants. The CWG serves as the forum for open dialog and discussion between the various disciplines, county government and business community. Working together the members determine needs, coordinate activities and monitor the implementation of homeland security initiatives. As needs and situations dictate, counties may add to the membership. The CWG is minimally comprised of the following:

- OEM Coordinator
- Freeholder Director or County Administrator
- County Fiscal Officer
- County Prosecutor or Designee
- County Police Chief's Representative
- County Fire Marshal or Coordinator
- County EMS Coordinator
- County HazMat Team Representative
- County Medical Examiner
- County Health Officer
- Largest Population City Representative
- Second Largest Population City Representative
- Critical Infrastructure Coordinator
- Domestic Preparedness Planner
- Healthcare Representative
  - Hospitals, Level I and II Trauma, Blood Banks

Each federal fiscal year, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) receives funding from DHS/FEMA under the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). HSGP funding is used to build capacity and enhance target capabilities at the state and local levels and to implement the goals and objectives included in state homeland security strategies and initiatives in the State Preparedness Report. HSGP funding is used to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters. The HSGP may fund a wide range of preparedness activities, to include planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises and management and administration costs. The HSGP is comprised of two funding streams, the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI).

FEMA's grant guidelines require that 80% of the SHSP and UASI funding awarded to OHSP be passed through to local units of government. The OHSP passes through the SHSP funding to each of the 21 counties. Each county, via its respective CWG, is required to invest their pass through funding consistent with both FEMA and OHSP grant guidelines in

order to support counter terrorism and emergency preparedness initiatives. SHSP funding allocations made by OHSP to each of the 21 counties is based on the relative risk profile of each county. This risk profile is comprised of population/population density, threat, vulnerability and consequence.

Each CWG is required to submit annual spending plans to the OHSP for review and approval that outlines how they plan to prioritize and invest their respective SHSP funding. The multi-disciplinary CWG's members are required to represent their constituent first responder and emergency preparedness agencies throughout their counties in order to facilitate OHSP's bottoms-up planning approach to funding homeland security projects. Municipalities and agencies within each of the 21 counties that have a homeland security and/or emergency preparedness mission and purpose can contact their respective CWG to discuss their project proposals.

### **Paradigm Shift – Reduced Funding to the States, Regional Threat/Hazard Assessments, Regional Projects**

Commencing with the FY13 SHSP funding cycle, OHSP required the 21 counties to form four Regional Executive Committees to identify their respective (manmade) threats and (natural/accidental) hazards. The REC governance structure along with the threat/risk data provides a strategic planning framework to allow the 21 counties within each of the four regions (Northwest, Delaware River, Shore and Urban Areas Security Initiative Region) to establish capability targets for each of the 31 core capabilities as well as monitor progress towards building, sustaining, and delivering capabilities and managing the risk they each face. This methodology is termed the Threat & Hazard Identification Risk Assessment/State Preparedness Report (THIRA/SPR).

For the FY13 SHSP and FY14 SHSP funding cycles each county received a base allocation of \$100,000 with the remaining funds formula allocated to each of the four regions (not to each of the counties as had been the practice from FY03 through FY12). Each region's allocation is to be used to fund projects that address and fill regional gaps in terrorism prevention, critical infrastructure protection, emergency preparedness, and other core capabilities that are identified by each of the four preparedness regions in their respective THIRA/SPR assessments. This same process will again be utilized for the FY15 SHSP funding cycle. The same THIRA/SPR methodology was utilized by OHSP to direct the strategic planning process for the FY13 and FY14 UASI funding cycles as well for the FY15 UASI funding cycle.

### **COUNTY WORKING GROUP CHAIRS:**

Atlantic County	Vincent J. Jones, County OEM Coordinator
Bergen County	Matthew Ziemkiewicz, County OEM
Burlington County	Kevin Tuno, County OEM Coordinator
Camden County	Sam Spino, County OEM Coordinator
Cape May County (Co-Chairs)	Prosecutor Robert Taylor, County Prosecutor Martin L. Pagliughi, County OEM Coordinator
Cumberland County	Joseph Sever, County OEM Coordinator
Essex County	Garey Chin, Essex County Director Homeland Security
Gloucester County	J. Thomas Butts, County OEM Coordinator
Hudson County	James Woods, County OEM Coordinator
Hunterdon County	George Wagner, Director of Public Safety
Mercer County	Dean Raymond, County OEM Coordinator
Middlesex County	John Ferguson, County OEM Coordinator
Monmouth County	Mike Oppegaard, County OEM Coordinator
Morris County	Scott DiGiralomo, County OEM Coordinator
Ocean County	Captain David Schenk, Ocean County Sheriff's Department
Passaic County	Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdez, County Prosecutor
Salem County	Jeff Pompper, County OEM Coordinator
Somerset County	Doug Vornlocker, County OEM Coordinator
Sussex County	Mark Vogel, Deputy OEM Coordinator
Union County	Chris Scaturo, County OEM Coordinator
Warren County	Frank Wheatley, County OEM Coordinator