

Nebraska Emergency Management/ Homeland Security Program



2021 PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES REPORT



The State of Nebraska's annual report on the priorities, goals and objectives supporting the National Preparedness Goal and associated activities funded through the Department of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Grant Program

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State of Nebraska
Office of Homeland Security
2021 Status of the Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program

March 1, 2022

Governor Pete Ricketts
Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley
Homeland Security Policy Group
Legislative Appropriations Committee
Executive Board of the Legislative Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Nebraska RRS 81-830, Office of Homeland Security, this is the yearly report for FY2021 program activities within the state in support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This report contains the identified state priorities, goals, and objectives in support of the National Preparedness Goal and the associated activities funded through the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for FY2021.

Nebraska faces similar threats from terrorism and natural disasters as any other state. Although Nebraska's central location may mitigate potential threats from international terrorism, its small, dispersed population, large agricultural and food processing industry, electrical grid, and telecommunications capabilities are potential targets that must be addressed within the context of the total state program. The challenge for Nebraska is to programmatically build an emergency management/homeland security program that effectively leverages our statewide resources and capabilities. This is an exceedingly complex task that requires regional coordination, cooperation, and a focused effort from local, tribal, state, and federal partners, the state's citizens, and private and nonprofit sectors.

Three main areas of focus for the Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program are reflected in the FY2021 HSGP investment justifications¹:

1. **Planning Exercise and Training (PET) Program/National Incident Management System (NIMS):** This program focuses on enhancing capabilities through regional, comprehensive, and progressive planning, exercises, and training. Additionally, the state continues to maintain an emphasis on the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), as per the governor's executive order #0502.
2. **Interoperable Communications:** The state emergency management/homeland security program is developing an interoperable public safety network, recognizing the importance of interoperable, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-agency communications during emergencies.
3. **CBRNE Cities & Emergency Response:** Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats exist across the state. Ten hazardous materials teams, located across the state, provide hazardous materials response through a state memorandum of understanding (MOU) and local mutual aid agreements.

¹ Investment justifications are submitted to DHS and must demonstrate how proposed projects address gaps and deficiencies in current programs and capabilities. Investment justifications are part of the evaluation criteria used by DHS when allocating grant funds.

In addition to these three main focus areas, the state also submitted investment justifications for programs in nine additional areas: Agriculture Response and Recovery, Law Enforcement and Terrorism Prevention (LETP)/Hazardous Device Teams (HDT), Enhancing Information & Intelligence Sharing (Fusion Center), Citizen Corps, the Metropolitan Medical Response System, Cybersecurity, Soft Targets/Crowded Places, Emerging Threats, and Countering Violent Extremism.

The state and local jurisdictions remain focused on the priorities and programs identified in the State Homeland Security Strategy and continue to build a strong program that is relevant, prudent for Nebraska, supportive of, and can integrate with, the National Preparedness Goal.

Beginning in FY2012, DHS linked the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) under the umbrella of the HSGP. The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and Citizen Corps Program (CCP) are no longer funded as distinct grant programs. However, all activities and costs allowed under the FY2011 Citizen Corps Program (CCP) and FY2011 Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant program were allowable and encouraged under the FY2021 HSGP. Grant rules required that 25 percent of the total funds awarded under the SHSP be distributed in support of law enforcement terrorism prevention activities linked to one or more core capabilities within the National Preparedness Goal.

Grant Overview:

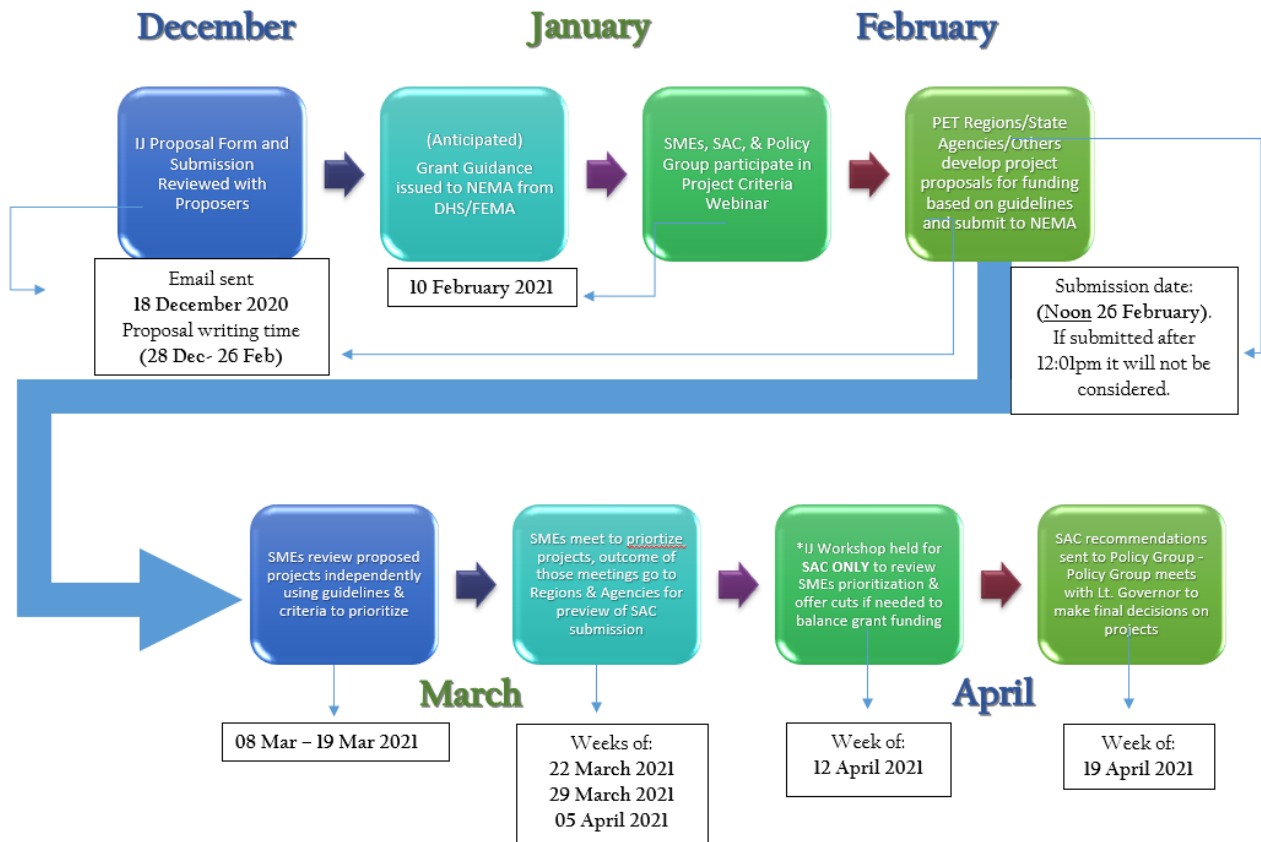
FY2021 funds were allocated based on three factors: 1) the legislatively mandated minimum amount, 2) DHS' risk methodology, and 3) anticipated effectiveness of the projects proposed, based on the strengths of the state's investment justifications. Based upon the submitted FY2021 investment justifications and the risk analysis for the state, Nebraska was awarded the congressionally mandated base line allocation of **\$4,602,500** for the SHSP. The state had no federally-designated UASI cities in FY2021, and therefore did not receive any UASI funds.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): The SHSP supports state, tribal, territorial, and local preparedness activities that address high priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities that support terrorism preparedness.

After the 2021 investment justifications were accepted by DHS, the funds Nebraska received were allocated to the local level, within 45 days, to pre-designated projects that resulted from a regional investment justifications process. A regionally-designated administrative county received the funds and oversaw program integration and progress with the assistance of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the state administrative agency (SAA).

The Nebraska 2021 HSGP investment justifications were built upon the state having a comprehensive, leveraged program approach, involving state and local program capabilities that support each other with the flexibility to integrate into the National Planning Frameworks. The 2021 investment justifications submitted by Nebraska were the result of a collaborative effort involving the 10 CBRNE hazardous materials response teams, the wide spectrum of first responders from across the state, the MMRS programs, public health departments, volunteers/citizen corps, the state planning team, and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group.

2021 Refined IJ Process



There has been a focused effort, since 1999, to build upon the initial State Homeland Security Strategy. Since the start of the program, funding has been utilized to meet Nebraska’s identified risk, threats, and vulnerabilities, in order to strengthen capabilities, planning, training, and exercise programs across the broad spectrum of needs. Nebraska supports the National Preparedness Goal through the application of a systems-based approach, utilizing capabilities-based planning as a common, all-hazard, major-events planning process. This provides a mechanism for measuring preparedness and identifying future preparedness investments. All of the emergency response processes, programs, and capabilities already in place within our state, local, tribal, and private sector homeland security programs, across all disciplines, support the National Preparedness Goal.

Nebraska’s homeland security program provides a way to enhance these existing resources by networking them together more effectively. This report details how Nebraska continues to build on past successes and expand its capabilities in gap areas related to the regionalization of equipment, resources, and programs supported by previous homeland security grants.

The homeland security program, and the allocation of grant dollars at both the state and local level, supported seven primary investment justifications. What follows is a brief overview of these investment justifications.

Investment Justification #1: Nebraska State and Regional Planning, Exercising, and Training (PET)

This investment includes sustainment and enhancement of a planning, exercise, and training process that has been used for several years within the state. It sustains the current training and exercising philosophy that is built each year into the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) and integrated into the state and regional multi-year training and exercise plans. It enhances the process by completing the threat and hazard identification risk assessment (THIRA) process, integrating state/regional public health programs into planning, developing risk assessment tools for the public and private sector, and integrating technical assistance provisions from the state into the state/local/regional/tribal planning process.



In 2021, Nebraska continued the core capabilities-based PET program, as the eight PET regions held trainings across the state, upgraded communications equipment and revised local emergency operations plans. The training focus in previous years provided the knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully deploy the state’s type 3 Incident Management Team to the Hackberry Fire and the Post Fire managing both fires without loss of life, or significant damage to infrastructure or personal property. Type 3 is a designation created by FEMA to denote the minimum capabilities the team must have. Nebraska also maintains a system of online credentialing of staff and equipment; giving local jurisdictions the ability to identify people with the appropriate training and qualifications for the needed response during disasters. Maintaining management of the fire using the state’s Type 3 incident management team made up of in-state personnel also saved tens of thousands of dollars for the state. On a related note, this investment was crucial in the establishment of the state’s formal and rostered Type 3 all-hazards incident management team.

COVID-19 continued to create many new challenges in 2021. Emergency Managers continued to become more technically proficient as it relates to technologies associated with virtual meeting and training platforms. 2021 saw in person training start to be reestablished with appropriate COVID safety protocols in place. As we embark on a new calendar year, our COVID-19 response identified the continued need for coordinated stakeholder involvement as well as the need to reinforce the precepts National Incident Management System while engaging multi-discipline stakeholders, utilizing common language and forms already in place and trained.

Investment Justification #2: Nebraska Interoperable Communications

The state has several communications initiatives that are federally funded and supported though NEMA. These grant-funded projects are managed by NEMA with oversight from a communications council.

Through executive order 12-01, the Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC) was created to provide policy-level direction, leadership and promote public safety communications development and interoperability in the state. Directed by the State Homeland Security Director, the council holds periodic meetings to review communication achievements as well as issues. The council is responsible for approving grant funded communication projects and thus, goes through an intense process of determining where the grant funds are most needed. Once the approval

recommendations are made, the council sends them to the Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group for final approval.

Representation on the NPSCC includes members from the Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency, Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Public Power District, each of the eight planning, exercise and training (PET) regions, Nebraska League of Municipalities and Nebraska Association of County Officials.

During 2021, the NPSCC met three times to discuss interoperable communication problems as well as successes. Much of the meetings were discussing the progress with many people still working at home and the capabilities that the State of Nebraska were able to utilize for this. Nebraska had many wildfires during this past year and communications were tasked above and beyond what local government could sustain. Requests were made and fulfilled for a cache of radios that would inter-connect local, state and federal firefighters and incident management teams. These efforts and their capabilities have proven that grant dollars used for these projects are successful.



The goals for 2022 are to utilize these grant funds to work towards the completion of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN).

The NRIN project is a point-to-point microwave connection of public safety access points on a single, redundant network. When finished, NRIN will provide county officials high speed, secure transport services for data, as well as a primary or backup dispatch system. The NRIN Governance Board continues to maintain and monitor the network, in cooperation with the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). The governance board is made up of two representatives from each of the eight PET regions. The NRIN project works directly with the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for Nebraska ensuring that statewide communications are coordinated, connected and compatible.

In 2021, the board put out a Request for Proposals for a network monitoring system that will assist in the future of not only the network but for the end users as well. It is still and will always be the goal of this system to educate and train our users as well as coordinate outreach to any prospective new users and 911 centers. The proposals will be reviewed in February 2022, with the goal of making a final selection in March 2022.

NRIN is used by several local dispatch centers to connect their upgraded console systems to the SRS core, expanding their access to shared communications resources with other state and local agencies. The state Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) operates the SRS on behalf of state, local and federal agencies, with regular outreach and training provided. Redundancy continues to grow stronger and more robust for the entire network. NRIN and the Statewide Radio system are part of the overall mission to complete total redundancy and backup for our public safety answering points.

Investment Justification #3: Nebraska Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Planning



The hazmat program in Nebraska dates to 1999, when NEMA established agreements with ten local fire departments with the goal of creating a hazardous materials response program that has the ability to respond, stabilize, and mitigate a hazardous materials incident within our borders. Over the years, the program has grown and expanded. The hazardous materials response teams continue to maintain their skill set while expanding into new technology. Responses continue to rise both nationally and locally.

Nebraska has developed a robust, multi-layered strategy for responding to hazardous material incidents. The Nebraska Hazardous Incident

Team (NHIT) is a joint team made up of hazmat technicians from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, and the Nebraska State Patrol. They are stationed across the state for rapid response to incidents throughout Nebraska. In addition, the state has maintained memorandums of understanding with nine of the original ten participating fire departments across the state to provide a full team of trained technicians at any location if the local jurisdiction is unable to provide a response.

Members of the Nebraska hazmat response community have continued to train to standards set by the National Fire Protection Association, an international organization that sets fire codes and standards, and have competed in national competitions. They have also responded to real-world incidents that could have caused severe damage to life and property if not contained.

Looking forward, training remains a top priority for all teams. In addition to continuing education requirements, turnover in departments requires new members to train to fulfill the role of hazmat technician. The state ensures these responders receive training to safely fulfill their mission. Future goals also include continuing team typing per the National Incident Management System standards and creating a training program that allows all teams to come together and train as a group.

Investment Justification #4: Nebraska Agriculture Response and Recovery

Beginning in 2003, Nebraska used funding from the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) to increase the state’s ability to deal with threats to agriculture and the food supply. These funds continue to support two main focus areas: local planning and education and the Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS).



The LEDRS system was developed in 2002 so private sector veterinarians across Nebraska could be activated, as needed, during a livestock emergency, and continues to provide planning and exercise opportunities to private veterinarians and other LEDRS members each year. In 2021, SHSP partially funded the LEDRS Conference, which was held in Broken Bow, NE, August 10-11. The conference presented information on topics such as Secure Beef Supply Plans, RFID technology,

NBAF Update, Disease transmission in Feed and a presentation of the new Swine Depopulation trailer. LEDRS continues to get participants credentialed, according to policy for emergency response activities. This year, three veterinarians joined the LEDRS Corp and are working to complete the required ICS courses. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) coordinated with USDA to ensure veterinarians received the Accreditation and Continuing Education Hours.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to emphasize the need to protect the supply chain and agriculture industry in Nebraska. NDA has been working with livestock groups on implementing the Secure Food Supply Plans in the livestock sectors to better prepare producers in the event of a disease outbreak. With African Swine Fever rapidly spreading throughout the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, and recent emerging disease outbreaks, many producers are seeing the importance of these plans.

One of NDA's biggest challenges is being prepared for the next emergency. It became apparent during the outbreak of 2015 and the 2019 flooding that NDA staff needed more ICS training. NDA has implemented the policy that all staff are required to take at least the basic ICS courses (100, 200, 700, and 800). Employees that are needed to fill a command or general staff position will be required to take ICS 300 and 400. It is the goal of NDA to have most ICS positions relevant to an animal disease response staffed 3 deep within the department.

Investment Justification #5: Law Enforcement, Terrorism Prevention, and Hazardous Device Teams

IED response and planning is used to ensure all accredited bomb squads in Nebraska have adequate capabilities and equipment for responses to explosive-related incidents across Nebraska. There are four accredited bomb squads in Nebraska that employ hazardous device technicians (HDTs). The agencies maintaining bomb squads are the Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha Police Department, Lincoln Bureau of Fire Prevention, and the Scottsbluff Police Department. While not receiving federal homeland security funds, the Nebraska National Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing has an explosive ordnance response team comprised of full-time and part-time personnel, many of whom have combat IED experience. While their primary mission deals with ordnance, they could be used for IED response. Awarded Homeland Security funds have allowed the NSP bomb squad to replace aging X-Ray systems that are carried in all six-response vehicles. NSP was also able to attend several trainings in the state involving multiple bomb squads.

Nebraska's bomb squads continue to train and enhance capabilities with specialized equipment obtained through the grant process. The purchase of detection and protective equipment, as well as training, through grant funding has assisted the squad in another year of no injuries or fatalities to squad members or the public. The NSP Bomb Squad utilized Homeland Security training funds to send its newest member to the FBI Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville Alabama for certification.

All the bomb squads are part-time squads, with the HDTs having other primary duties within their respective agencies. This creates challenges in maintaining monthly training hours in accordance with national standards/guidelines. This part-time status also challenges the bomb squads in equipment maintenance, proficiencies and advanced techniques. Law enforcement in general, but specifically the bomb squads, are challenged in the



enforcement of explosive/IED-related statutes. Major emergency scenes can necessitate federal, state, and local agencies working together. With this potential type of event involving so many different entities, the need to train together is imperative on a yearly basis.

Investment Justification #6: Enhancing Information & Intelligence Sharing

The Fusion Center process is intended to further the state’s ability to detect, prevent, respond to, and recover from a terrorist event, or natural disaster. The investment justification builds on the national priorities of strengthening information sharing and collaboration capabilities within the state, at the regional level, and with federal partners. The fusion center process is carried out through the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC). The NIAC integrates data from many state and local data sources, including the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), Lincoln Police Department, Omaha Police Department (OPD), North Platte Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Gothenburg Police Department, Grand Island Police Department, the Adams County Sheriff’s Office, and the University of Nebraska Police Department, with the NSP providing day-to-day leadership. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) was faced with a wide range of challenges, and effectively met and responded to those events. NIAC analysts continue to use technology to better facilitate collaboration and communication with LE and Private Partners. As part of the State Patrol Headquarters building move, the NIAC worked with DHS to move the secure room and systems in accordance with DHS guidelines. NIAC Analysts continue to provide counter threat support to state and local law enforcement agencies.

Because of COVID-19, NIAC developed new communication channels, adapting where analysts work, how communication is accomplished, and how information is shared. The NIAC hired three new analysts during this fiscal year. The NIAC also moved headquarters locations when the State Patrol consolidated offices in Lincoln.

As crime and the threat environment continue to evolve, so will the NIAC. The NIAC is expanding its outreach and information-sharing network with law enforcement agencies and private partners. The NIAC will also work to grow its threat analysis support, and education on misinformation and disinformation campaigns. Misinformation and disinformation campaigns are a major challenge for the NIAC, and these threads use up resources during emergencies and muddy the threat picture. On the personnel side, retaining long term and senior analysts continues to be a challenge, because other agencies have better pay and benefits.

Investment Justification #7: Nebraska Citizen Corps Program

The Nebraska Citizen Corps program works with emergency management, public health departments, first responders, and other preparedness partners to provide public education, training, and volunteer opportunities for Nebraskans. Through providing technical assistance to programs on the local level, fostering connections between preparedness partners at the national, state, and local levels, and working to further develop the capacity of the State Citizen Corps Council, the Citizen Corps program ensures that all Nebraskans are better prepared for and able to respond to disasters.



In 2021, Nebraska Citizen Corps continued to be actively involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Citizen Corps groups played an integral role in COVID-19 vaccine clinics in their local areas, while assisting local health departments with contact tracing and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile and supporting local supply chains.

Local Citizen Corps programs also focused on offering trainings to help their communities become more resilient and prepared to respond to a variety of incidents and support local emergency management efforts. Throughout 2021, teams provided training on: Volunteer Reception Centers, Hands-Only CPR, Rapid Shelter Team Setup/Shelter Management, Stop-the-Bleed, Pet Owner Disaster Preparedness, Psychological First Aid (PFA), Disaster Communications with Radios, Best Practices in Supporting the Disabled in Disasters, as well as community emergency response team (CERT) courses.

The Nebraska Citizen Corps teams also came together this summer to host their annual Citizen Corps Volunteer Preparedness Conference at Camp Augustine in Grand Island, NE. Participants gained valuable training in chainsaw use, radio communications for incident response, wilderness first-aid, and conducting search and rescues. The conference closed with a valuable team building search and rescue exercise where participants established a coordinated effort to search the expansive camp for the hidden exercise “victims,” played by CPR dummies and several watermelons playing the role of small children.

In 2022, Nebraska Citizen Corps will continue to build statewide disaster response capacity by supporting and growing existing teams, provide technical assistance for the creation and development of local Citizen Corps programs within Nebraska communities, and facilitate and assist in State Citizen Corps Council activities.

Investment Justification #8: Nebraska Metropolitan Medical Response System

The MMRS program is specifically targeted to the Omaha Metropolitan Healthcare Coalition (OMHHC) region, including Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties. Specific funds were identified for Omaha to address the medical response to an all-hazards environment and link the MMRS system to the state’s homeland security program.

The OMHCC activated for the COVID-19 pandemic response on 1/27/2020 and has not deactivated as of this date. The OMHCC continues to facilitate Healthcare Unified Command (HUC) meetings and maintain their Incident Action Plan (IAP), which is in its 45th operational period. Currently, the HUC meets every other week. One ad-hoc COVID-19 workgroup is still meeting as well: the Infection Prevention/PPE Reuse Workgroup.

The OMHCC’s role in the pandemic continues to be focused on information sharing, facilitating resource sharing, acting as a liaison with jurisdictional authorities, and facilitating response actions through the HUC. In the last year, the OMHCC has obtained Essential Elements of Information (EEI) submitted by OMHCC hospitals into Knowledge Center daily. This includes information on bed availability, ED capacity information, various facility and PPE information, COVID-19 patient counts, ventilator and supply management information, and all the required data for our federal partners. This information is then sent out to hospital, HUC, and local/state government partners in a daily report and a spreadsheet with facility-

specific information included. A summary report of aggregate information is also available upon request. The OMHCC Coordinator continues to attend State Medical Emergency Operations Center (MEOC), Public Health Fusion Cell (PHFC), and Douglas County Unified Command (DCUC) calls to share information on OMHCC response activities.



The region's healthcare facilities are experiencing challenges related to COVID. Since August 2021, there has been a dramatic increase in COVID patients in OMHCC hospitals. As of this writing, COVID positive cases, COVID confirmed inpatients, COVID patients in the ICU, and COVID patients on ventilators all continue to rise in number. Hospital and non-hospital healthcare continue to be challenged by staffing shortages.

The COVID pandemic has presented many challenges to planning and preparedness. The OMHCC Resource Cache was nearly depleted in 2020. Prior to resource deployments, the OMHCC Cache was made up of decontamination equipment (approximately 95%) and supplies used for evacuation/mass casualty incidents (approximately 5%). The Equipment and Resources workgroup and the Executive Committee discussed the need for PPE and determined the need for a pandemic focused cache of nitrile gloves, isolation gowns, surgical masks, and N95 respirators. The OMHCC Coordinator and Chair of the OMHCC Equipment and Resources Workgroup (with the help of OMHCC hospitals) developed a proposal for Fiscal Recovery Funding and submitted it to Douglas County for approximately \$1.6 million dollars to store pallets of PPE at Douglas County hospitals. The OMHCC Coordinator has also requested approximately 56 pallets of material from State of Nebraska pandemic caches to be placed at the two OMHCC warehouses for use by OMHCC Non-Hospital Healthcare facilities (i.e. LTC, AL, SNF). The new Resource Inventory Equipment purchased with SHSG funds was received and we are in the process of implementing this to make it easier to inventory OMHCC equipment and supplies.

Our exercise and training schedule (which is where the majority of SHSG funding goes) has been severely affected by the COVID pandemic. The OMHCC Exercise and Training Workgroup has developed a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP) and is conducting a training needs assessment soon to determine training needs because of the pandemic. While OMHCC exercises in 2020 were postponed or cancelled, OMHCC hopes to develop exercise design teams in the next month to develop 2 tabletop exercises, a functional exercise, and a full-scale exercise. The OMHCC values the SHSG and its partners within the Tri-County region and appreciates patience as funding meant for exercises and training sits unused as the healthcare community responds to the ongoing pandemic and staffing challenges. SHSG funding is necessary to continue forward movement on disaster planning (particularly with exercise, training, and education) as it relates to the healthcare system and OMHCC.

Investment Justification #9: Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity planning, operational communications, and operational coordination, are consistently identified as high priorities across the State. Identifying and diagnosing the ability or inability of local jurisdictions to work with State and Federal entities to maintain continuity of operations while ensuring the health, safety, and welfare, of all community residents. Most of the counties across Nebraska lack technical personnel to assist during an attack resulting in State resources being requested during a down period. The priority gaps addressed in this investment are: risk identification, vulnerability reduction, continuity of operations, and basic security & controls. Historically when data breaches occur the cost to those affected is high. This enhanced effort will focus on training staff, understanding who is and what is on networks, protecting the data, and planning for resiliency, including cyber incident response plans at both State and local levels.

To address this shortfall, planned projects consist of continued cybersecurity training, computer firewall replacement and enhancement; purchasing a forensic extraction tool for the Nebraska State Patrol, and various tools to enhance the ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, and respond to cyber-attacks and threats while enhancing and sustaining the core capabilities of cybersecurity and operational communications.

Investment Justification #10: Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places

This investment addresses the core capabilities of operational coordination, intelligence and information sharing, interdiction and disruption, access control, and physical protective measures. Concerts, sporting events, schools, fairs, farmers' markets, transportation systems, etc., are soft targets and crowded places that are easily accessible to large numbers of people, and often have limited security or protective measures in place. Through these investments, we will be better prepared to prevent attacks on the public and protect against acts of violence, active assailants, or bombings.

There exist realistic mass casualty threats to crowds that have been realized both domestically and internationally. Planned projects consist of purchasing a mobile target-hardening system capable of monitoring, mitigating, managing attacks, a virtual reality-based platform capable of training officers to respond to criminal or terrorism attacks, and personal protective equipment for the Lincoln Police Department. Projects in the Tri-County Region consist of Tactical Medical Team training which will be offered to other SWAT teams around the state and the purchase of night vision goggles for counter surveillance.

Investment Justification #11: Addressing Emerging Threats

Emerging Threats covers a wide range of potentially harmful outcomes, from unintended consequences, to bad actors or terrorists, and can be local or foreign in origin. There is no way to prepare for every eventuality; however, it is possible to develop tools that will make for less vulnerability and enable disruption, protection, mitigation, and recovery from the threat.

Projects under this investment include hiring an intelligence analyst for the Omaha Police Department, purchasing situational awareness software, conducting hazmat team and bomb squad terrorism training, and purchasing personal protective equipment.

Investment Justification #12: Combating Domestic Violent Extremism

This project features enhancement of knowledge and capabilities in Nebraska to detect and intervene when behaviors indicative of potential violence either motivated or influenced by extremism are present. Planning and consultation services will be made available to multi-disciplinary threat assessment partnerships in schools, government organizations, and communities across the state. Additionally, mental health professionals forming the Nebraska Violence Risk Assessment Cadre will be prepared to integrate assessment of behaviors motivated or influenced by extremist ideologies or tactics in their consultation with crisis teams, law enforcement, and threat assessment teams.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) will lead the project and will track the number of individuals participating in planning activities, how the information is operationalized by multi-disciplinary threat assessment partnerships, and the number and type of consultations provided during the project period. Materials developed via a previous DHS targeted violence grant will be updated by the NUPPC team to educate stakeholders and bystanders to report concerning behaviors. Additionally, a violence prevention toolkit for Nebraska threat assessment teams will be updated so it is consistent with community-based guidance and information developed via this project. Materials and lessons learned from this project will be disseminated via the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) of which NUPPC serves as an affiliate.

Conclusion

The Office of the Lt. Governor, and the Homeland Security Policy Group, continue to lead the overall homeland security effort for the state of Nebraska. Due to the composition and complexity of the DHS grants, many of the grant activities for FY2021 are just beginning to be implemented. However, some of the current funding is already being used to enhance and sustain existing programs. The Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program is integrated into the Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy and focused on long-term accomplishments and capabilities.

Planning for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating natural and manmade disasters is not a one-time event. It is not just a box to be “checked off”; it is an ongoing process designed to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury, and loss of life and property associated with disasters and emergencies.

The state’s homeland security program has matured a great deal since the events of September 11, 2001. This is evident in the continued development of the Nebraska Information and Analysis Center under a collaborative environment between the NSP and federal and local law enforcement agencies, the build-out of state and local communication systems, and the enhanced hazardous material response systems across the state. There has also been a tremendous increase in training and inter-agency cooperation, at both the state and local level, as evidenced by county emergency managers that come together and deploy to a disaster scene, as occurred this year at the Hackberry and Post fires. The fact that Nebraska now has enough qualified, credentialed, individuals from across the state to staff an ad hoc Type-III incident management team, which can deploy to help local officials manage larger disasters, is a credit to the state’s commitment to training. When the Nebraska program was established, decisions were made to support the program through existing state agencies and consolidate the executive requirements for homeland security under the Office of the Lt. Governor. Although we anticipate increased scrutiny at the federal level, in terms of funding support, we believe the state of Nebraska made good decisions that resulted in increased security and readiness for the entire state.

Currently, federal funds support 100% of the state’s administrative costs, and 20% of the state’s programmatic costs, of the homeland security and emergency management program. These funds also support up to 80% of the local emergency management programs across the state. As budgets continue to tighten at all levels of government, it is almost certain that the state will be asked to determine the level of support we should continue to give toward the state’s homeland security program. Reductions in funding would eventually lead to extended timelines for the completion of on-going projects and reductions in homeland security programs within NEMA, negatively affecting the state’s ability to enact and carry out the state emergency management and homeland security program.



Daryl Bonac
Major General
NEMA Director



Ervin Portis
NEMA Assistant Director
DHS State Administrative Agent

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Attachments:

2021 State Homeland Security Grant Allocations Table
 FY2021 SHSP Allocations by Investment Justification
 FY2021 SHSP Allocations by PET Region
Nebraska PET Regions Map
List of Members of the Homeland Security Policy Group
Acronyms and Terms

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2021 Homeland Security Grant Allocations

| Region | Citizen Corps | LETPP | Comm | PET | National Priorities | | | | Totals |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | | CyberSecurity - Elections | SoftTargets / Crowded Places - Elections | Emergent Threats | | |
| East Central | \$2,450.00 | | \$18,200.00 | \$66,846.00 | \$99,600.00 | | \$5,900.00 | | \$192,996.00 |
| North Central | | \$28,600.00 | \$59,144.00 | \$93,821.00 | | | | | \$181,565.00 |
| Northeast | | \$79,438.00 | \$53,500.00 | \$32,830.00 | \$6,400.00 | | | | \$172,168.00 |
| Panhandle | \$13,000.00 | | | \$59,500.00 | | | | | \$72,500.00 |
| South Central | \$17,040.50 | \$100,000.00 | \$67,131.00 | \$85,500.00 | | | \$0.00 | | \$269,671.50 |
| Southeast | \$20,040.50 | | \$11,400.00 | \$38,660.00 | \$67,000.00 | \$185,319.00 | | | \$322,419.50 |
| Southwest | \$8,250.00 | \$15,000.00 | \$22,000.00 | \$23,775.00 | | | | | \$69,025.00 |
| Tri-County | \$72,850.00 | \$54,520.00 | | \$130,350.00 | \$35,000.00 | \$44,806.00 | \$39,200.00 | | \$376,726.00 |
| Lincoln Co - Statewide HazMat Team | | | | | | | \$78,000.00 | \$253,000.00 | \$331,000.00 |

Total
\$1,988,071.00

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Agriculture | \$40,000.00 |
| Statewide Citizen Corps Coordinator & Conference | \$54,369.00 |
| Fusion Center - NIAC | \$559,297.50 |
| Hazardous Device Technicians | \$273,200.00 |
| NE Helicopter Search and Rescue Team (from NEMA's Share) | \$25,000.00 |
| NE Regional Interoperability Network | \$612,000.00 |
| Combating Domestic Violent Extremism | \$345,187.50 |
| Metropolitan Medical Response System | \$80,000.00 |

Total
\$1,964,054.00

Represents 80% Total Award to Local Units of Government \$3,952,125.00 *

**To the Local Share, NEMA contributed \$270,125 - covering Emerging Threats, HSART, and a portion of Communications costs*

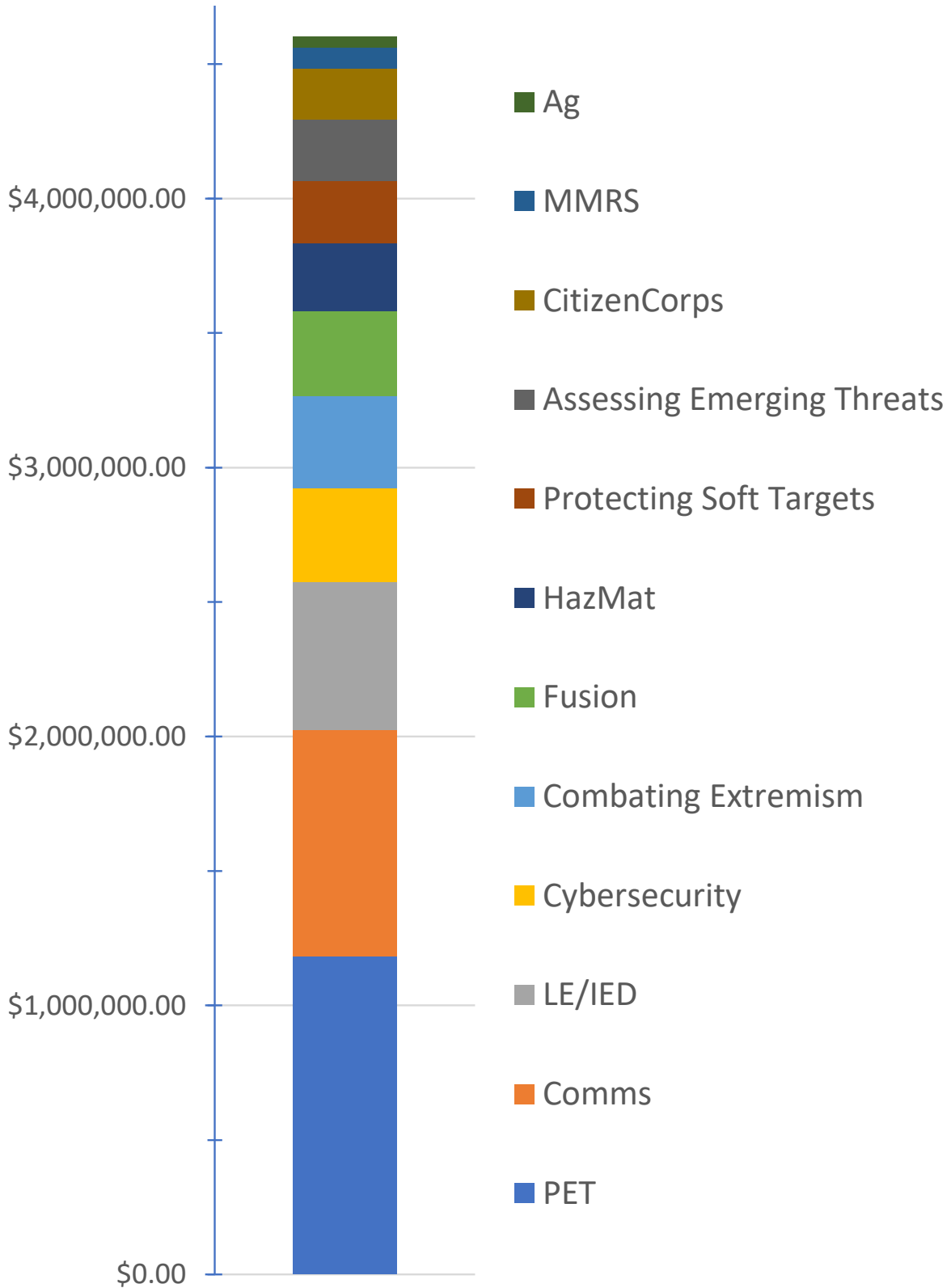
Remaining 20% is retained at the State Level as per Grant guidance \$650,375.00

NEMA - \$650,375* - funding is allocated to PET programming, and Management & Administration of the grant

Total Grant Award \$4,602,500.00

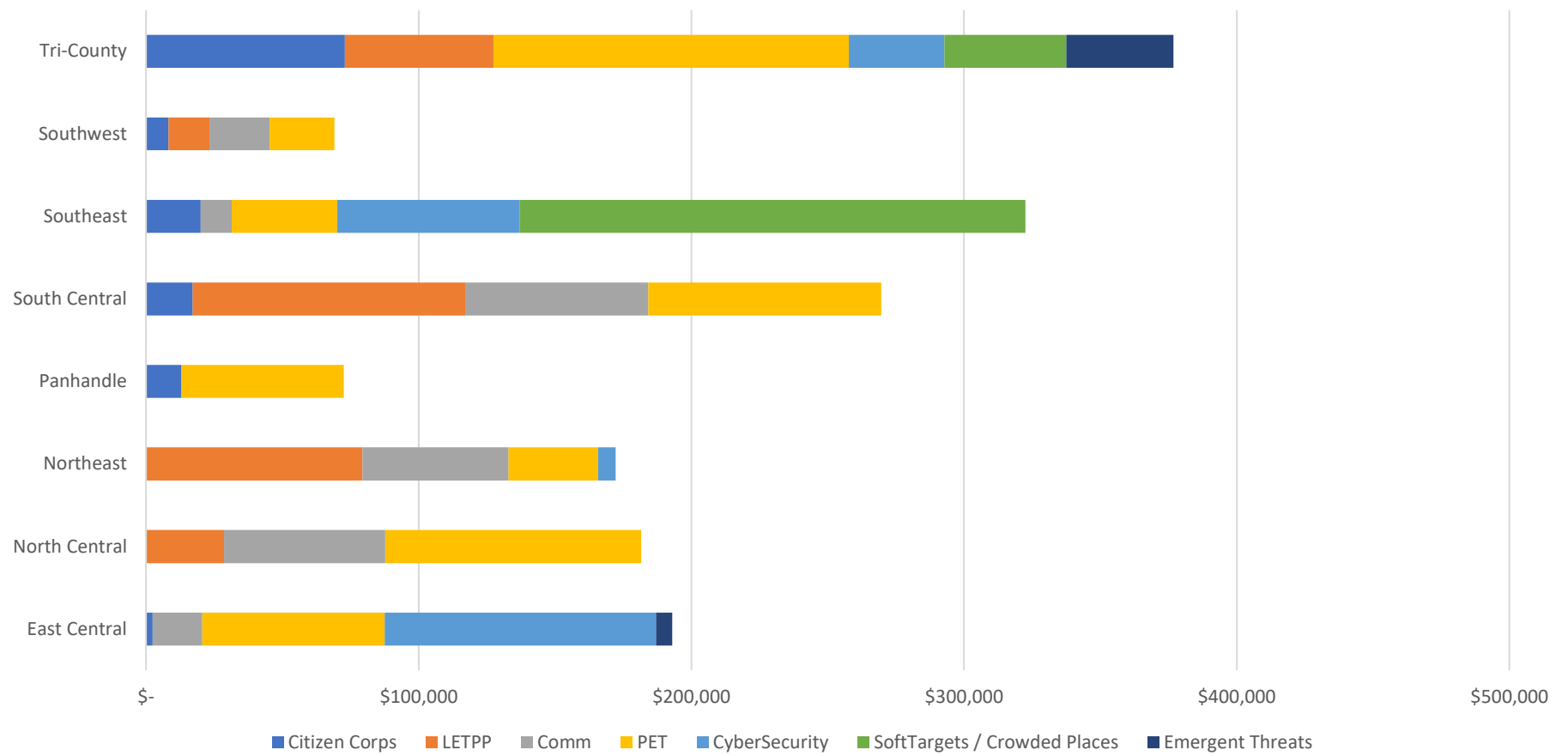
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FY2021 SHSP Allocations by Investment Justification



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FY2021 SHSP Allocations by PET Region



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2021 Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group Members

Gubernatorial Appointees

Lt. Governor Mike Foley
Homeland Security Director

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac
Adjutant General – Nebraska Military Department

Col. John Bolduc
Superintendent – Nebraska State Patrol

Christopher Kratochvil
Vice Chancellor – University of Nebraska Medical Center

Christopher Cantrell
State Fire Marshal – Nebraska State Fire Marshal

Steve Wellman
Director – Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Dannette Smith
Chief Executive Officer – Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

Gary Anthone, MD
Chief Medical Officer - Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

Edward Toner
Chief Information Officer – Nebraska Department of Administrative Services
Office of the Chief Information Officer

Erv Portis
Assistant Director – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Jason Kruger, MD
Public Health – Medical Response – Preparedness

Cheryl Wolff
Senior Policy Advisor – Nebraska Governor's Policy Research Office

Ex-Officio Members

Sen. Rita Sanders
Committee Member – Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

Sen. Mike McDonnell
Committee Member – Appropriations Committee
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

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Acronyms and Terms

CBRNE: Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosive

CCP: Citizen Corps Program

DHS: United States Department of Homeland Security

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fusion Center: an intelligence-gathering and analysis center used to promote sharing of information among local, state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental business partners

Haz Mat: Hazardous Materials

HDT: Hazardous Device Technician

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP): a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning

Homeland Security Policy Group: led by the lieutenant governor, this group assesses strategic alternatives and recommends broad courses of action for the development of comprehensive homeland security strategies

HSGP: Homeland Security Grant Program

IED: Improvised Explosive Device

Incident Command System (ICS): consists of a standard hierarchical organization and procedures used to manage incidents

Investment Justification: method by which the state explains its planned use for Homeland Security grant funds

MMRS: Metropolitan Medical Response System

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

National Incident Management System (NIMS): a framework used in the United States for both governmental and non-governmental agencies to respond to natural or manmade disasters at the local, state, and federal levels of government

National Planning Scenarios: Fifteen all-hazards planning scenarios for use in preparedness activities. They represent the range of natural and manmade disasters

National Preparedness Goal: The President directed the development of a National Preparedness Goal (or Goal) in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8. The Goal reorients how the Federal government proposes to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Goal establishes a vision, capabilities, and priorities for national preparedness.

National Priorities: 8 national priorities that are to be used to help guide preparedness goals and reflect major themes and issues identified through national strategies

NEMA: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

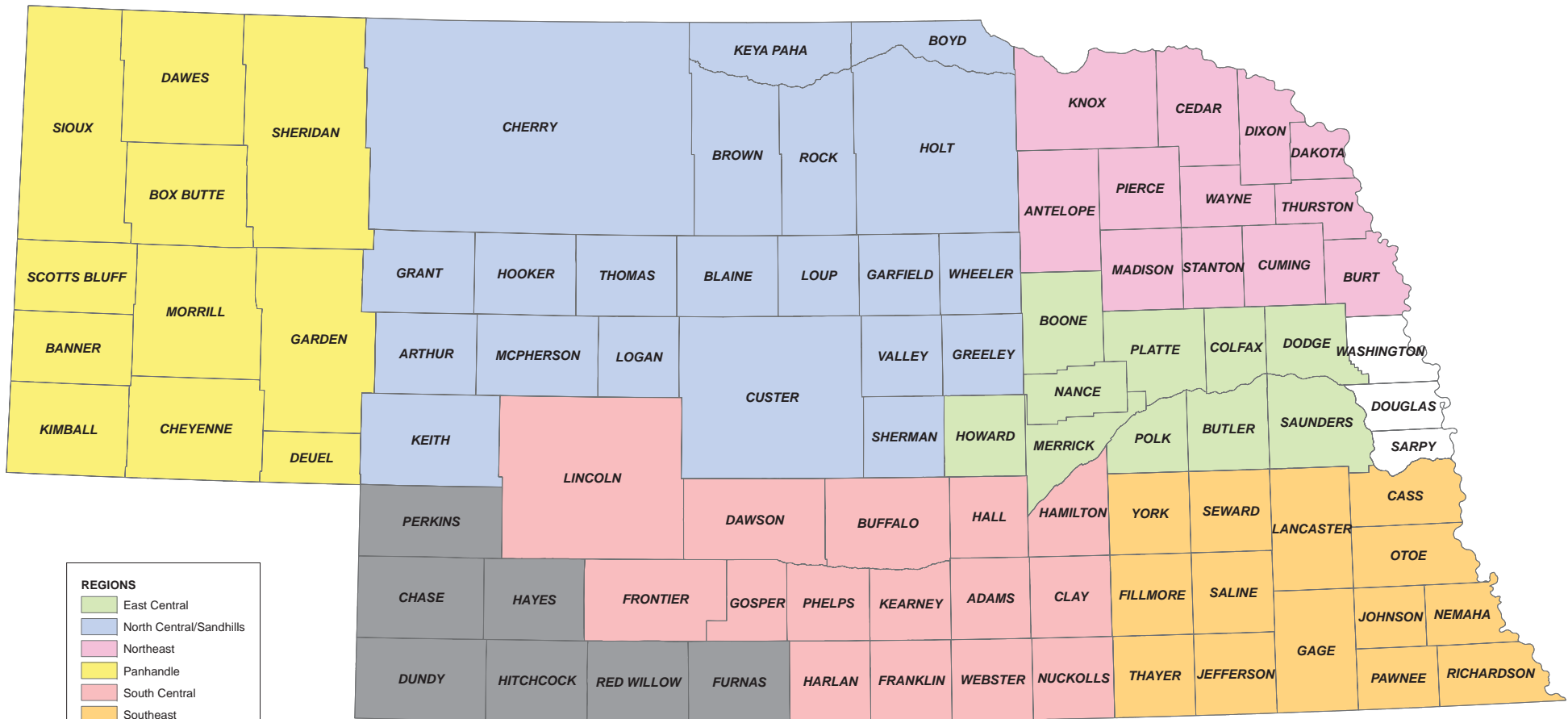
PET: Planning, Exercise and Training

SHSP: State Homeland Security Program

State Homeland Security Strategy: identifies a strategic direction for enhancing the State of Nebraska's capability and capacity to detect, prevent against, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or incidents of terrorism, disasters, and major emergencies.

UASI: Urban Area Security Initiative

Universal Task List (UTL): 1,600 unique tasks that can facilitate efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from the major events that are represented by the National Planning Scenarios. It presents a common vocabulary and identifies key tasks that support development of essential capabilities among organizations at all levels.



REGIONS

- East Central
- North Central/Sandhills
- Northeast
- Panhandle
- South Central
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Tri-County

Regional PET

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