



FEMA

23 AUG 2012

Aaron D. Kennard, Sheriff (Retired)
Executive Director
National Sheriffs' Association
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Kennard:

Thank you for your letter, dated July 26, 2012, regarding the support of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) and your concern about having dedicated funding for their positions.

FY 2011 and 2012 saw significant decreases in homeland security funding. In FY 2010, total funding for preparedness grants was approximately \$2.97 billion. In FY 2012, this figure was reduced to approximately \$1.38 billion. As you may know, in FY 2012, Congress gave the Secretary discretion as to which grant programs were funded and the Secretary focused the grant dollars toward program such as the Homeland Security Grant Program and did not fund smaller grant programs such as IECGP in order to give the States the flexibility to expend dollars toward the greatest gaps in core capabilities. At the same time, allow ability was expanded under HSGP and other funded programs to ensure that activities that had been supported under smaller unfunded programs could continue.

GPD expects the trend of combining grant programs to continue. The FY 2013 President's Budget proposed combining all grant programs into one consolidated program: the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP). The vision for NPGP is to strengthen coordination and sharing of resources within States and regions. FEMA will also be relying on Statewide and Regional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRA) that will be prepared by States, Tribes, and Urban Areas to identify capability gaps and will help drive future grant expenditures to sustain and build capabilities. We encourage your members and SWICs to get involved with the THIRA development process within your States as a means of showing the value of SWICs in strategically coordinating emergency communications.

While it is unlikely that IECGP will be funded as a stand-alone program, FEMA strongly supports the continued role of SWICs to help coordinate emergency communications within States and regions. We believe that there is flexibility to fund SWIC positions under HSGP and we encourage you and your members to engage with your State SAA to find ways to continue this important work.



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If you have any further questions or concerns, please have a member of your staff contact Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Legislative Affairs Division at (202) 646-4500.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth M. Harman".

Elizabeth M. Harman
Assistant Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate