



## **Stimulus Funds to Purchase ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System (GLS): Urban Area Security Initiative and Transit Security Grant Programs**

### **Program Description and Funding Level**

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the Transit Security Grant Program provide funding to urban areas to assist with activities designed to protect the large cities and their surrounding areas from man-made attacks. The program provides awards for training, equipment, exercises and planning. For FY 2009, there was \$837 million for the UASI program and \$550 million (including stimulus funding) is available for the Transit Security Grant Program.

### **Eligible Use of Funds**

Funds may be used for equipment purchases, training, planning, and exercises related to Homeland Security defense needs. Gunshot location systems provide for situational awareness during attacks and are, therefore, an eligible use of funds. ShotSpotter has been certified by DHS and placed on the Authorized Equipment List (AEL). That list is a roster of pre-approved items and products that DHS pre-determines is eligible for acquisition. Because of this, SHGP grant recipients will not have to justify a request for a ShotSpotter gunshot location system.

### **How Funds Are Allocated and Distributed**

#### ***UASI***

DHS pre-selects from the nation's largest cities the 50 most threatened areas. Among those areas, they segment the list into Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas. Tier 1 areas receive approximately 50% of the program's funding (and are usually a grouping of no more than 8 areas). The remaining money is split among the other 42 or so urban areas. Each area is assessed for its risk of terrorist attack, amount of critical infrastructure, and top-secret intelligence regarding threat of attack. States must pass through a minimum of 80% of their award to local governments, including cities and counties.

#### ***Transit Security***

Only UASI areas are eligible for the Transit Security Grant Program. Funding is available to the transit operators in this area (surface- and/or rail-based systems). Funding allocations follow the same Tier 1 and Tier 2 bifurcation, with allocations within those areas made the same way as the UASI program.

### **Match**

States must make a 25% non-federal match to their annual award.

### **How to Access These Funds for Your Community**

1. UASIs are governed in a variety of ways. Their Working Group is usually their managing authority and will consist of a representative of the core city, the core county, and the Governor. You should contact the state administering agency (usually the State Homeland Security Office or State Emergency Management Agency) to determine who is the main point of contact for the UASI in your area.



2. Follow up with the core city or core county representative to determine how the UASI makes its funding allocations (they can use money for equipment, training, exercises, and planning).
3. Determine what type of committee or body governs the process for Transit Security Grant program awards (this is customarily, though not always, a committee within the UASI governing body).
4. Determine what the priorities are for the equipment category (you might be competing with CBRNE equipment, radios, triage tents, response vehicles, etc).
5. Get in the funding cycle. Most UASIs have a local process for requesting funds through UASI and the Transit Security Grant Program. Their decision-making process can start as early as a year before awards are actually made.