



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Public Safety

Homeland Security Division

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Robert C. Haas
Secretary

Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lieutenant Governor

September 29, 2006

Dear Municipal Chief Executive Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to announce that the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS) is changing the distribution process for the Local Preparedness Grant (LPG) funds under the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). This year, EOPS has directed the state's four Regional Homeland Security Advisory Councils (Councils) to utilize a portion of their HSGP funding to bring each municipality within their region into compliance with federal National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation requirements. In lieu of LPG awards made directly to municipalities by EOPS, municipalities may request reimbursement from their Councils for NIMS training compliance efforts.

The LPG program was originally created with FFY 2004 HSGP funds as one component of the Commonwealth's overall Homeland Security Strategy and provided municipalities with direct funding to support local homeland security efforts. The LPG funding, also awarded directly to municipalities in FFY 2005, was a portion of the HSGP award received from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for state and local homeland security projects.

In FFY 2006, NIMS compliance was one of Massachusetts' HSGP priority initiatives approved for funding by DHS. Up to \$10,000 in FFY 2006 HSGP funding will be available to each municipality, through their Councils, to ensure that all appropriate first responder disciplines are trained in accordance with federal NIMS requirements by September 30, 2007. As a result, EOPS will no longer provide funds directly to each municipality for equipment, planning, training or exercises, as done in the past. Instead, municipalities may request funding, on a reimbursement basis, for backfill and overtime costs for appropriate first responders to attend approved NIMS training courses.

Please be aware that compliance with NIMS implementation requirements will be a condition of receiving future federal preparedness funding assistance. Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, Management of Domestic Incidents, requires all local, tribal, state and federal first responder entities to become compliant with the standards of NIMS. NIMS compliance is required to be achieved as a community-wide effort. Incident response organizations (including local public health, public works, emergency management, fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement, hazardous materials, government officials, medical organizations, utilities and others) must work together to comply with NIMS components, policies and procedures.

In the coming weeks, the Councils will notify municipalities within their respective regions about the process for requesting reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for NIMS training, a list of the appropriate first responders and NIMS training courses, the timeline for trainings to be completed, and the deadline for submission of reimbursement requests.

Although this funding for reimbursement of NIMS compliance efforts will not cover the variety of expenditures allowed in the past, it is my hope that the funding provided by the Councils will allow each community to achieve compliance with federal NIMS requirements and, therefore, increase each community's eligibility for future homeland security funding. Thank you for your cooperation with this important public safety and homeland security initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. C. Haas", written in a cursive style.

Robert C. Haas
Secretary of Public Safety

cc: Regional Homeland Security Advisory Councils