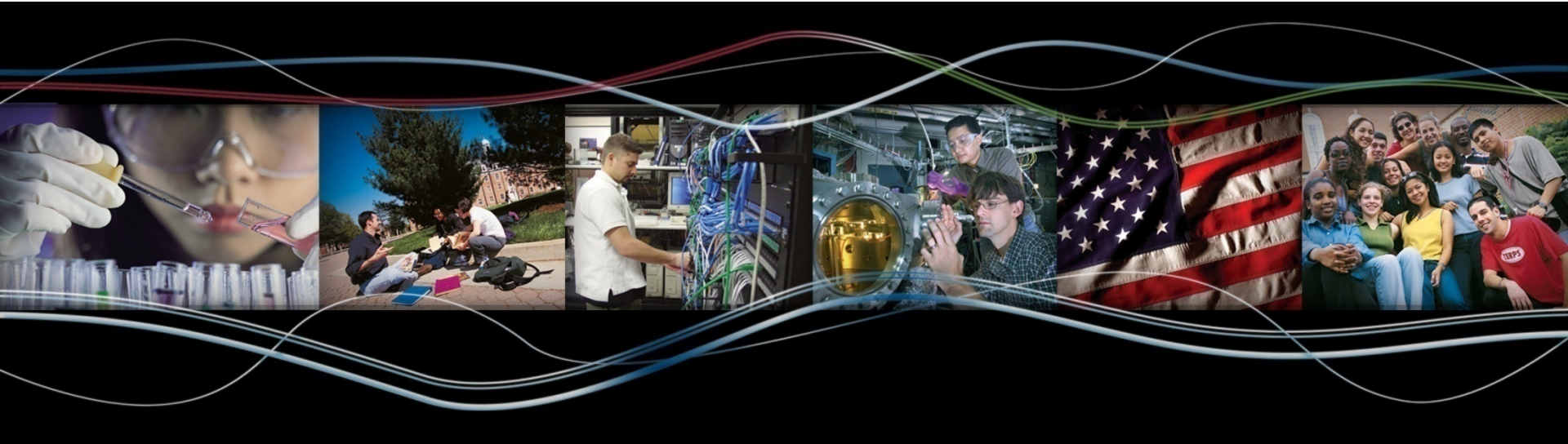


Office of University Programs (OUP)

Webinar: Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Center for Borders, Trade and Immigration Research – Center Lead



Science and Technology Directorate
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www.hsuniversityprograms.org



**Homeland
Security**

Science and Technology



A few notes...

- **Acroynms:**
 - COE = Center of Excellence
 - FOA = Funding Opportunity Announcement
- **Two funding opportunities for the Center for Borders, Trade and Immigration Research:**
 - [Center Lead](#) (*this webinar is focused on applicants applying as a Center Lead*)
 - [Partner](#) (*for applicants who want to submit a proposal for a single research project*)
- **This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).**
- **Submit all questions in the Chat Box.**
 - Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar.
 - Questions/answers will be posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
- **Questions about specific research themes, topics or questions will not be addressed during this webinar.**



Agenda

- Overview of the Office of University Programs (OUP)
- The DHS Centers of Excellence (COEs)
 - OUP's expectations of a DHS COE
 - What does a COE do?
 - Establishing a new COE
 - Benefits of being a DHS COE
- Tips to consider when applying as a Center Lead
- Q&A



What is the Office of University Programs (OUP)?

- Part of the [Department of Homeland Security](#), [Science and Technology Directorate](#)
- **What does OUP do?**
 - Streamlines access to the expertise of the nation's colleges and universities to address pressing homeland security needs.
- **How does OUP do it?** OUP administers programs and partnerships through which DHS components can access academic expertise to answer research questions, deliver technical solutions, and build a highly specialized workforce. OUP programs:
 - [Centers of Excellence](#)
 - [Minority Serving Institutions](#)
 - [Workforce and Professional Development](#)
- **Why does OUP do this?** [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#) states:

"The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate a university- based center or several university based centers for homeland security. The purpose of the center or these centers shall be to establish a coordinated, university- based system to enhance the Nation's homeland security."

What does a Center of Excellence do?

A COE:

- **Develops multidisciplinary, customer-driven, homeland security science and technology solutions**
 - The new COE will be funded up to \$20 million over 5 years.
 - COEs have attracted more than \$290 million from external sources for homeland security research, development, and education.
- **Provides valuable tools and services to federal, state, and local governments**
 - More than 100 targeted tools, technologies and knowledge products.
 - Performed targeted research for 18 DHS components and offices, which have contributed nearly \$75 million in supplemental COE investments as of August 2012.
- **Educates and trains the current and future homeland security workforce**
 - Over 2,000 students funded since 2004 to conduct research in DHS mission-relevant areas.
 - Over 5,000 graduate and undergraduate students have attended COE-developed courses.



Currently Funded DHS COEs

	Center of Excellence	Lead University(s)	Example Capabilities
1	Center for Awareness and Localization of Explosives-Related Threats (ALERT)	Northeastern University	• Explosives characterization • Explosives detection
2	Coastal Hazards Center (CHC)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jackson State University	• Emergency management decision support and analysis • Coastal hazard modeling
3	Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE)	University of Southern California	• Risk assessment and management • Economic assessment
4	Center for Visualization and Data Analytics (CVADA)	Purdue University Rutgers University	• Public safety coalition projects • Visual analytics for security applications
5	Center for Maritime, Island, Remote and Extreme Environment Security (MIREES)	University of Hawaii Stevens Institute of Technology	• Coastal radar detection & satellite tracking of ships • Layered maritime awareness
6	National Center for Border Security and Immigration (NCBSI)	University of Arizona University of Texas at El Paso	• Screening and tracking • Immigration, governance, & border policy
7	National Center for Food Protection and Defense (NCFPD)	University of Minnesota	• Biological and chemical agents behavior • Event modeling
8	National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)	University of Maryland	• Terrorist recruitment and group formation • Community resilience against terrorist threats and attacks
9	National Center for Zoonotic and Animal Disease Defense (ZADD)	Kansas State University Texas A&M University	• Biological detection tools • Business continuity and incident command

What are OUP's Expectations for COEs?

- COEs are funded through **cooperative agreements**, which enable and require **substantial** Federal agency involvement.
- **COEs should expect to:**
 - Dedicate the appropriate time and resources to OUP and DHS.
 - Adapt to evolving homeland security challenges and priorities.
 - Identify and partner with leading researchers in relevant disciplines.
 - Develop sustained relationships with homeland security stakeholders.
 - Collaborate with other COEs and be actively engaged in the COE community.
 - Plan in advance for transition of research results to users and industry partners.

Establishing a new COE: Developing the Research Questions

To develop research topics and questions:

- OUP works with a team of relevant subject matter experts from DHS components such as:
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - U.S. Customs and Border Protection
 - Transportation Security Administration
 - National Protection and Programs Directorate
- COE topics are informed by homeland security priority areas
 - Policy documents
 - Strategy documents



Establishing a new COE: Evaluation Process and COE Selection

- Funding Opportunity Announcement is posted on www.grants.gov
- Evaluation Process
 - External panel scientific review and recommendations
 - Internal panel relevancy review and priority selections
 - Site visits with DHS subject matter experts to *Lead Institution* finalists to assess management
- Selection
 - Selection of new COE Leads and Partners
 - Negotiations with COE Leads, including COE subcontracting and approval process
 - 5-year award to COE

NOTE: *All proposed projects in a COE Lead application will not necessarily be selected.*

Establishing a new COE: Post-Award Standup

- Initial Work Plan for Year 1
 - OUP-facilitated Work Plan Development Workshop.
- After Year 1, research projects may be developed or evaluated through:
 - Workshops with stakeholders and end users to identify new gaps and research needs
 - Advisory committees – OUP will establish a Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC) to provide guidance to OUP
 - Biennial Reviews – OUP will conduct a formal review every 2 years with a SME review committee to evaluate the research and make changes as necessary



Why Should You Apply?

Being a COE Lead or Partner is a unique opportunity to:

- Work on real homeland security challenges.
- Develop solutions to make the nation safer, more secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards.
- Work closely with a combination of:
 - homeland security operational personnel including local, state, and other federal agencies
 - scientific subject matter experts
 - industry and nonprofit organizations
- Foster and enable high-level, inter-agency and public-private partnerships and collaboration.



Tips for Applying

- Read the entire FOA.
- Develop a diverse but integrated multi-institutional, multidisciplinary team.
- Create a matrix – did you address everything?
- Review the checklist.
- A separate [Partner FOA](#) is available for applicants only interested in submitting proposals for individual projects.



FAQs

- **Does this competition complement or replace the existing Center of Excellence?**
 - This competition is for a new Center.
- **Can I submit a proposal if I am not currently affiliated with a Center?**
 - Yes.
- **Is there a limit on the number of proposals an institution can submit?**
 - Center Lead: Only one proposal per university.
 - Center Partner: No restriction on the number of proposals submitted by an institution or individual.
- **Can multiple independent campuses organized under the same Statewide system compete for Center lead?**
 - Yes.



FAQs *cont'd*

- **Can a proposed project embrace more than one of the research topics?**
 - Yes.
- **Does a Partner applicant have to identify a Lead applicant to partner with?**
 - No. A Partner application is separate and independent from a Lead application. Partner proposals that are selected will become part of the new COE and managed by the COE Lead.
- **Are there any restrictions on having non-public corporations or businesses as partners in a proposal?**
 - No.
- **Can research teams include members who are not US Citizens?**
 - Yes (but may require special justification and approval from DHS).
 - The proposed Center Director must be a U.S. citizen eligible for a security clearance.



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