

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due: July 30, 2026



Fiscal Year 2026 BioWatch Grant Program

Assistance Listing Number: 97.091

Funding Opportunity Number: DHS-26-GPD-091-00-99

Contents

	<u>Before you begin</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>Step 1: Review the Opportunity</u>	<u>3</u>
	Basic information	4
	Eligibility	5
	Program Description	8
	<u>Step 2: Get Ready to Apply</u>	<u>14</u>
	Submission Requirements and Application Deadlines	15
	<u>Step 3: Write Your Application</u>	<u>18</u>
	Application Contents and Format	19
	<u>Step 4: Learn About the Award Review Process</u>	<u>21</u>
	Application Review Information	22
	Intergovernmental Review	26
	<u>Step 5: Learn What Happens After Award</u>	<u>27</u>
	Award Notices	28
	Post-Award Requirements and Administration	28
	Other Information	38
	<u>Contacts and Appendices</u>	<u>44</u>
	Contacts	45



Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Grants.gov registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registration is active and up-to-date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and other criminal or noncriminal misconduct related to this program may be reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline. The toll-free numbers to call are 1-(800)-323-8603 and TTY 1-(844)-889-4357



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were before clicking an internal link by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1: Review the Opportunity

In this step

Basic information	<u>4</u>
Eligibility	<u>5</u>
Program description	<u>8</u>

Basic Information

A. Award Facts

Agency Name: U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Resilience

Assistance Listing Number: 97.091

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Title: Fiscal Year 2026 BioWatch Grant Program

Funding Opportunity Number: DHS-26-GPD-091-00-99

Announcement Type: Initial

Expected Award Range: \$100,000.00 - \$6,000,000.00

Expected Total Funding: \$35,000,000.00

Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 40

B. Executive Summary

The BioWatch program, managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is designed to detect aerosolized biological attacks by continuously monitoring the air for specific biological threats using strategically placed air collectors. This federally managed, locally operated system provides early warnings of biological incidents, enabling state and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively, thereby reducing casualties and fatalities. BioWatch supports the National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan (2022) by informing decision-making, enhancing preparedness, and providing post-incident support to limit the impacts of biological threats.

Operating in over 30 metropolitan areas across 22 states, BioWatch protects roughly one-third of the U.S. population and extends its coverage to high-visibility special events. Its core activities include operating air samplers, collecting and analyzing air samples, assisting partners with planning and preparedness through guidance, training, and exercises, and alerting and coordinating response actions upon detection of a threat. The program's objectives are to maintain a robust biodetection capability, engage stakeholders in preparedness and response, and establish coordination mechanisms across federal, state, local, and tribal levels to ensure rapid and effective public health responses to bioterrorist attacks.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is for the performance of field operations--including deploying and maintaining a fleet of air monitoring units, collecting and replacing filters from those units, and



Have questions? See [Contacts and Support](#)

Key Dates

Projected Application Start Date: July 15, 2026

Projected Application End Date: July 30, 2026

Anticipated Funding Selection Date: July 31, 2026

Anticipated Award Date: August 1, 2026

Projected Period of Performance Start Date: August 01, 2026

Projected Period of Performance End Date: July 31, 2031

Budget Period: August 01, 2026-July 31, 2027

transporting filters daily to BioWatch laboratories in metropolitan areas identified below. As optional for specific metropolitan areas listed below, field operations further include laboratory operations, such as sample processing, analysis, and results reporting.

Eligible recipients of this cooperative agreement are state and local government agencies, regional governmental organizations, public institutions of higher learning, and federally recognized tribal governments.

Eligibility

A. Eligible Entities

Only the following entities or entity types are eligible to apply.

Applicant Eligibility

Only the following entities or entity types are eligible to apply:

- State
- County
- City or Township
- Special district by municipality
- Regional governmental organization (e.g., airport, metropolitan transit authority, railroad, port authority)
- Public institution of higher education
- Indian tribal government (federally recognized)
- Other: Law enforcement, first response, air monitoring, or emergency management agencies that are part of the city, township, or county

The applicable locations can be provided upon signature of a Nondisclosure Agreement (NDA).

Eligibility for Federal Assistance (FA) via a cooperative agreement is contingent on verified documentation demonstrating the following:

1. Recipients must be affiliated with state, local, and tribal government public health, first response, emergency management, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments; universities; or other state, local, and tribal government agencies with or without current air monitoring programs.
2. Recipients will provide sample collection, delivery to a testing facility twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week/three hundred sixty-five days a year (24/7/365) via personnel or contracted support services.
3. Recipients can provide sample processing and analysis, 24 hours a day/seven days a week/365 days a year (24/7/365) via personnel or contracted support services.

Subapplicant Eligibility

Subapplicants and subawards are allowed. Subawards are allowed provided awardee meets eligibility criteria #3 above.

Subapplicants should not include foreign nationals or noncitizens. If a subapplicant has foreign nationals or noncitizens, they must be properly vetted and adhere to all government statutes, policies, and procedures including “staff American, stay in America” and security requirements.

B. Project Type Eligibility

Allowable Project Types

BioWatch Field Operations for biothreat detection.

BioWatch Laboratory Operations for biothreat detection.

Unallowable Project Types

Research & Development projects.

C. Requirements for Personnel, Partners, and Other Parties

Interested applicants, via the Pre-Application process, and/or recipients and any subrecipients will sign a DHS Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Non-Disclosure Agreements: Non-federal Government employees performing activities in connection with this cooperative agreement who may have access to Sensitive But Unclassified (For Official Use Only) information shall sign the latest DHS Non-Disclosure Agreement (DHS Form 11000-6 and shall safeguard such information in accordance with DHS Management Directive 11042.2 (Safeguarding SBU (For Official Use Only) Information).

Qualified personnel performing sample collection and transport must:

1. Possess the skills and technical background to successfully complete the tasks described in the Statement of Work.
2. Be properly vetted and adhere to all government statutes, policies, and procedures including “staff American, stay in America” and security requirements.
3. Be able to work with an interim background check and adhere to any additional local clearances.
4. Possess a valid U.S. driver’s license.
5. Be able to safely lift fifty pounds (OSH Act: Section 5(a)(1) limit is 51 pounds).
6. Complete training in all aspects of field operations Field as described in the BioWatch Field Operations Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) including:
 - a. Equipment operation and maintenance
 - b. Equipment inspection, testing, troubleshooting, calibration, and repair
 - c. Filter collection and handling
 - d. Chain of custody and sample tracking
 - e. Decontamination and contamination avoidance
 - f. Equipment inspection, testing, troubleshooting, repair, and maintenance
7. Program staff requiring access to government information technology systems (e.g., BioWatch

Sample Tracking Tool, Data Management System) are subject to additional DHS security screening via the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). Note: Non U.S. Citizens are going to go through higher scrutiny. If they are not cleared for use, they cannot work on BioWatch and we cannot reimburse the jurisdiction for any costs related to that persons activities

No foreign nationals or non-U.S. Citizens as principal investigators and all resumes must be submitted and subject for approval.

D. Maximum Number of Applications

One application per eligible entity (described in Section A “Eligible Entities” above).

E. Additional Restrictions

Recipients/subrecipients, and if applicable, applicants/subapplicants, are required to certify their compliance with federal statutes, DHS directives, policies, and procedures.

F. References to Other Eligibility Factors

Please see the following references provided below:

1. “Threshold Review Criteria” subsection
2. “Financial Integrity Criteria” subsection
3. “Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review” subsection
4. FEMA may request financial information such as the Employer Identification Number (EIN) and bank information as part of the potential award selection. This will apply to everyone who benefits from the award, including subrecipients.

G. Cost Share Requirements

There is no cost share requirement.

H. Cost Share Description, Type, and Restrictions

Not applicable.

I. Cost Share Example

Not applicable.

J. Required Information for Verifying Cost Share

Not applicable.

[Maintenance of Effort](#)

Not Applicable.

Program Description

A. Program Purpose

The BioWatch program operates biodetection capabilities across over 30 major metropolitan areas in the U.S. to provide early warning of a biological incident and enable life-saving response actions to occur. Due to the nature of biological attacks, intentionally released biological agents represent a rare but uniquely serious threat to the homeland. Unlike many other hazards, a biological attack can unfold silently. An adversary could release microscopic organisms or toxins into the air or a crowded space with no immediate signs of an attack, such as an explosion, visible plume, or immediately symptomatic people. By the time people begin to show symptoms and seek medical care, the agent may already have spread widely, and critical windows for the most effective medical and public health interventions may have passed. Thus, providing early warning of these incidents is critical to limit the loss of life and consequences.

The BioWatch program is the biodetection capability provided by the CBRN Operational Support Directorate, which resides within FEMA's Office of Resilience. To support local operational biodetection activities, the program office manages budgetary planning, numerous support contracts and agreements, and provides centralized logistics support. BioWatch also generates operational guidance documents, SOPs, trainings and exercises, and supports various other preparedness and stakeholder coordination activities.

Through the cooperative agreement awards granted in response to this NOFO, BioWatch funds field operations in over 30 jurisdictions across the United States, supporting activities such as collecting filters from over 600 sampling units and transporting those filters to BioWatch funded laboratories on a daily basis, 365 days a year. Cooperative agreement funds are used to identify, hire, and train field operators; purchase vehicles used in filter collection and transport; pay for sampling sites and power as well as office and equipment storage space. In some jurisdictions, these funds also support laboratory operations, including staffing, training, and supplies. Additionally, funding enables jurisdictions to provide enhanced biodetection coverage during high visibility or high threat special events and supports personnel participation in DHS-led exercises, drills, and response actions following a detection.

B. Goals and Objectives

The program uses risk reduction and will optimize allocation of resources to ensure ongoing risk reduction is done in the most effective and efficient way possible. The goal of the BioWatch program is to reduce morbidity and mortality following a bioterrorist attack through detection, initiation of rapid public health response, and early warning by meeting the following objectives:

- Operate and sustain a biodetection capability throughout the United States.
- Engage state and local stakeholders on preparedness and response activities.
- Establish coordination mechanisms among federal, state, local, and tribal stakeholders for steady state and enhanced operations.

This goal directly aligns with first mission of the 2023 Third Quadrennial Homeland Security Review,

Counter Terrorism and Prevent Threats. To accomplish this goal and these objectives, the BioWatch program executes the following core activities and capabilities:

- **Monitor and identify:** BioWatch operates air samplers in designated U.S. locations for daily operations and special events. Filters are retrieved daily and analyzed in BioWatch laboratories, which adhere to rigorous quality standards, to determine the presence of specific biological agents.
- **Plan and prepare:** BioWatch Jurisdictional Coordinators help state and local partners plan and prepare by facilitating training, drills, and exercises to enhance coordination, communication, and decision-making. These efforts integrate BioWatch into broader emergency planning, strengthening all-hazards preparedness and build a critical network for responding to bioterrorism.
- **Notify and respond:** Upon detection of a biological agent, BioWatch alerts federal, state, and local partners, and coordinates initial actions to ensure a timely and efficient response.

In addition, the BioWatch program ensures that jurisdictional laboratories and field operations teams have adequate supplies to operate and maintains a quality assurance program to ensure defensibility of and confidence in analytical results. Furthermore, the program investigates and pursues innovation opportunities, such as process improvements and technological advancements, to ensure the program remains agile and adapts to changing or emerging threats.

C. Performance Measures and Targets

Development and maintenance of a 24/7/365 operational ability to detect and respond to a bioterrorist event in accordance with PPD-8 including:

1. The percentage of time the collectors are operational.
2. The percentage of collectors properly tracked and maintained.
3. The percentage of agreed-upon field operators that are trained to perform daily (24/7/365) air monitoring collections, and daily delivery requirement to the Laboratory Resource Network (LRN) Lab for analysis.
4. The percentage of the BioWatch Advisory Committee meetings where the Field Manager or Field Lead participates.
5. The percentage of internal and external corrective actions needed which are addressed within the required time frame.
6. The percentage of Filter Holder Assemblies with exposed filters (i.e. sample) collected.
7. The percentage of Filter Holder Assemblies with unexposed filters installed.
8. The percentage of samples transported and delivered at the specified time.
9. The percentage of samples to the Laboratory Resource Network laboratory for analysis as specified in the Field Standard Operating Procedure.

Targets and other performance measures will be communicated by the Program Office.

The BioWatch field operations do not produce analytical data, so there are no formal data quality objectives associated with the field component of the program. However, quality objectives are established for the sample collection process as outlined in the BioWatch Field Operations Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Each jurisdiction is responsible for ensuring these objectives are met. If the

Local Field Office (LFO) does not meet the objectives, it must develop a Corrective Action Report to determine the root cause and how the LFO will monitor, update, and correct the deficiency.

EMA will conduct periodic reviews of Recipient compliance with the BioWatch Field Operations SOP via the BioWatch Evaluation Program (BWEP) and BioWatch Quality Assurance program audits.

D. Federal Assistance Type

Cooperative Agreement

Federal role will qualify as substantial involvement the BioWatch Program actively tracks the progress and status of awardees, reviews, and approves all program materials. The recipient will remain close and regular interaction with the BioWatch Program, including but not limited to:

- A. FEMA will provide technical assistance in reference to the most recent version of the Standard Operating Procedures (Field Operations SOP), including evaluating the program technologies (Sample Track Tool, HSIN, etc.), Recipient's site security procedures, network design, and collector siting;
- B. FEMA will provide technical guidance, assistance, and direction through email and teleconferences (to include regularly scheduled teleconferences), as deemed necessary;
- C. FEMA will review and provide a final determination for changes requested in collector network design and siting;
- D. FEMA will provide national guidance for notification protocols and post-BioWatch Actionable Result (BAR) activities;
- E. FEMA will notify the Recipient when National Special Security Events, (NSSEs), Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) Level I event, and/or periods of elevated security threat such as surge operations requiring increased sampling;
- F. FEMA will provide the Recipient the opportunity to comment on any proposed changes to the Field Operations SOP. If FEMA revises these documents, the BioWatch Program Office will notify the Recipient through the FEMA Grants Officer at least 60 days prior to the effective date of the implementation; and
- G. FEMA will review and provide approval or comments on any feedback from the awardee regarding findings of the bi-annual BioWatch Evaluation Program (BWEP).

E. Program-Specific Unallowable Costs

Research projects are not allowed.

Note: The above may not be exhaustive. Please consult the applicable terms and conditions and with FEMA for more information.

F. General Funding Requirements

Costs charged to federal awards (including federal and non-federal cost share funds) must comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations, policies, this NOFO, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred, and products and services must be delivered within the budget period (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.403\(h\)](#)).

Recipients may not use federal funds or any cost share funds for the following activities:

1. Matching or cost sharing requirements for other federal grants and cooperative agreements (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.306](#)).
2. Lobbying or other prohibited activities under [18 U.S.C. § 1913](#) or [2 C.F.R. § 200.450](#).
3. Prosecuting claims against the federal government or any other government entity (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.435](#)).

G. Prohibition on Covered Equipment or Services

FEMA provides additional resources regarding the prohibition on covered telecommunications equipment and services in its policy titled [Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services](#) (FEMA Policy #405-143-1). This policy outlines specific requirements related to the prohibition. Additionally, FEMA's [Contract Provisions Guide](#) offers sample language for the required contract provisions.

Recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors or subcontractors must comply with the prohibitions set forth in [Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019](#), which restrict the purchase of covered telecommunications and surveillance equipment and services. See [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.216, 200.327, 200.471](#), and [Appendix II to 2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) for more information.

Prohibition on Covered Foreign Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors or subcontractors must also comply with Section 1825 of the American Security Drone Act of 2023, enacted as part of the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024](#) (Pub. L. No. 118-31 §§ 1821-33, 41 U.S.C. 3901 note prec.). This provision mandates that, beginning December 22, 2025, no federal funds awarded through a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, or otherwise made available may be used to procure a covered unmanned aircraft system (UAS) that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity. Significantly, no funds may be used in connection with the operation of such a drone or UAS. For more information, refer to [Public Law 118-31](#) and [OMB Memorandum M-26-02, Ensuring Government Use of Secure Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Supporting United States Producers](#).

H. Beneficiary and Participant Eligibility

Beneficiary

Not applicable.

Participant

Not applicable.

This NOFO and any subsequent federal awards create no rights or causes of action for any beneficiary or participant. Please consult the FEMA Standard Terms and Conditions, your awarding agency's terms and conditions, and your awarding documents for more details.

I. Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are allowed for both recipients and subrecipients. Indirect costs (IDC) are costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to specific cost objectives without disproportionate effort. Applicants with a current negotiated IDC rate agreement who desire to charge indirect costs to a federal award must provide a copy of their IDC rate agreement with their applications. Not all applicants are required to have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement. Applicants that are not required to have a negotiated IDC rate agreement, but are required to develop an IDC rate proposal, must provide a copy of their proposal with their applications. Applicants without a current negotiated IDC rate agreement (including a provisional rate) and wish to charge the de minimis rate must reach out to FEMA for further instructions. Applicants who wish to use a cost allocation plan in lieu of an IDC rate proposal must reach out to FEMA for further instructions. As it relates to the IDC for subrecipients, a recipient must follow the requirements of [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.332](#) and [200.414](#) in approving the IDC rate for subawards.

J. Budget Period

This funding opportunity is estimated to have 5 budget period(s). This NOFO only funds the first budget period, projected to span from August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027. Funding for additional budget periods is subject to:

1. Funding availability;
2. Program authority;
3. Satisfactory performance and compliance;
4. A determination from the awarding agency that continued funding is in the best interest of the federal government.

Recipients need prior written approval from the awarding agency to carry forward unobligated balances across budget periods.

K. Pre-Award Costs

Pre-Award costs are allowable for budget periods 2 through 10, provided the recipient remains the same.

L. Management and Administration Costs

M&A costs are allowable. M&A are not operational costs but are necessary costs incurred in direct support of the grant or cooperative agreement or as a consequence of it, such as travel, exercise support, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part-time staff in direct support of the program. An application must provide in the Project Narrative a detailed description of these expenses, and these items can be itemized in financial reports.

M. Authorizing Authority

The BioWatch program is authorized by the Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026, Pub. L. No. 119-86, Title III, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Assistance, Sec. 14(H) and 6 U.S.C. §§ 591 note (construing 6 U.S.C. §§ 592-596 to cover chemical and biological responsibilities), 592, 596(1).

N. Appropriation Authority

Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026, Pub. L. No. 119-86.



Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

In this step

Submission Requirements and Application Deadlines 15

Submission Requirements and Application Deadlines

A. Registration

You must have an active [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) account which includes having a UEI. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number or to register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](https://sam.gov) and click “Get Started.” From the same page, you can also click on the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov). You can see step-by-step instructions see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

B. Requesting the Application Package

The application package is accessible in the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) system. To access the system, go to <https://go.fema.gov/>.

C. Application and Submission Instructions

To apply for an award under this program, all applicants must:

1. Apply for, update, or verify their UEI number and EIN from the Internal Revenue Service;
2. Provide their UEI number in the application;
3. Have an account with login.gov;
4. Register for, update, or verify their [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) account and ensure the account is active before submitting the application;
5. Register in FEMA GO, add the organization to the system, and establish the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). The organization’s electronic business point of contact (eBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see the [FEMA GO Startup Guide](#);
6. Submit the complete application in FEMA GO; and
7. Always maintain an active SAM registration with current information during which the applicant has an active federal award, an application, or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. As part of this, applicants must also provide information on an applicant’s immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the last three years, if applicable.

Per [2 C.F.R. 25.110\(a\)\(2\)\(iv\)](#), if an applicant is experiencing exigent circumstances that prevents it from obtaining an UEI number and completing SAM registration prior to receiving a federal award, the applicant must notify FEMA as soon as possible. Contact fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov and provide the details of the exigent circumstances.

D. How to Register to Apply

General Instructions

Registering and applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Below are instructions for registering to apply for FEMA funds. Read the instructions carefully and prepare the requested information before beginning the registration process. Gathering the required information before starting the process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. To ensure an application meets the deadline, applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission. Organizations must have a UEI number, EIN, and an active SAM registration.

Obtain a UEI Number

All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI number.

Obtain Employer Identification Number

In addition to having a UEI number, all entities applying for funding must provide an EIN. The EIN can be obtained from the IRS at [Get an employer identification number](#).

Create a login.gov account

Applicants must have a [login.gov](#) account to register with SAM or update their SAM registration. Applicants can create a login.gov account at [Create an account](#).

Applicants only have to create a login.gov account once. For existing SAM users, use the same email address for both login.gov and SAM.gov so that the two accounts can be linked.

For more information on the login.gov requirements for SAM registration, refer to [SAM.gov](#).

Register with SAM.gov

In addition to having a UEI number, all organizations must register with SAM.gov. Failure to register with SAM.gov will prevent your organization from applying through FEMA GO. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually and must remain active throughout the entire grant life cycle.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM.gov, refer to [Register with SAM.gov](#).

Note: per [2 C.F.R. § 25.200](#) applicants must also provide the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance, applicants must also provide the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the past three years, if applicable.

Register in FEMA GO, Add the Organization to the System, and Establish the AOR

Applicants must register in [FEMA GO](#) and add their organization to the system. The organization's electronic business point of contact (eBiz POC) from the SAM.gov registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see the [FEMA GO Startup Guide](#).

Note: FEMA GO will support only the most recent major release of the following browsers:

- Google Chrome;
- Mozilla Firefox;
- Apple Safari; and
- Microsoft Edge.

Applicants using tablet type devices or other browsers may encounter issues with using FEMA GO.

E. Submitting the Final Application

Applicants will be prompted to submit the standard application information, and any program-specific information required in FEMA GO.

After submitting the final application, FEMA GO will provide either an error message or send an email to the submitting AOR confirming the transmission was successfully received.

F. Application Deadline

July 30, 2026 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

G. Pre-Application Requirements Deadline

Pre-application Requirements Deadline:

Interested applicants and the recipient must follow requirements and complete them with the deadlines given below:

1. Contact BioWatch@hq.dhs.gov by July 27, 2026 4:30 PM Eastern Time

H. Post Application Requirements Deadline

The recipient must follow requirements and complete them with the deadlines given below:

1. To be communicated after the Pre-Application phase.

I. Effects of Missing Deadlines

All applications must be completed in FEMA GO by the application deadline. FEMA GO automatically records proof of submission and generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives an application. The submitting AOR will receive an email with an official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number to serve as proof of timely submission prior to the application deadline.

Applicants experiencing system-related issues have until 3 p.m. ET on the date applications are due to notify FEMA. No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline. Applications not received by the application submission deadline will not be accepted.



Step 3: Write Your Application

In this step

Application contents and format [19](#)

Application Contents and Format

A. Application Requirements

For a list of required documents, see “Required Documents, Content, and Formatting.” Applications missing any of the required forms or documents listed or communicated during the application process may not be reviewed.

Step 1: Interested applicants contact the BioWatch Program at BioWatch@hq.dhs.gov to review and sign the required FY26 Non-Disclosure Agreement (FY26 NDA).

Step 2: The BioWatch Program provides the necessary scope of work information to the interested applicants that signed and provided the required FY26 NDA.

Step 3: Interested applicants submit their completed application according to the provisions described below.

The following forms or information are integrated into the application package in FEMA GO. Applicants should review these forms at [SF-424 Family | Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) before applying to ensure they are providing all required information.

1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
2. Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying
3. SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction)
 - If construction is permitted under the program, submit SF-424C, Budget Information (Construction), instead of SF-424A
4. SF-424B, Standard Assurances (Non-Construction)
 - If construction is permitted under the program, submit SF-424D, Standard Assurances (Construction), instead of SF-424B
5. SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

B. Required Documents, Content, and Formatting

All applications will submit all required forms and required documents listed in this section. Additional forms and documents may be required and will be communicated during the Pre-Application process. Applications missing any of the required forms or documents listed in this section or communicated during the Pre-Application process may not be considered for review. Applications will not be accepted from entities who have not engaged in the Pre-Application process.

Required forms:

1. Form SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance

Complete the SF-424 application form. This form may be completed on the Grants.gov website or it can be completed offline in its entirety.

NOTE: Applications submitted through Grants.gov must use the SF-424 provided by Grants.gov. The SF-424 application forms can only be viewed and downloaded once Adobe Reader has been installed. The SF-424 application form on Grants.gov is formatted so applicants are only required to complete fields that are indicated with an asterisk (*) and color coded. Once the application is

complete, save changes and close the document.

2. Form SF-424A – Budget

Complete the budget in its entirety. Provide budget amounts by object class (e.g., salaries, fringe, travel, indirect). Funds may be requested if the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and are not precluded by the cost principles or program funding restrictions.

Additional guidance on how to complete the Form SF-424A can be found at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html>.

3. Certifications/Assurances

These forms must be completed within the application package on Grants.gov. Adobe Reader must be downloaded and installed.

Applicants must submit:

1. **Form SF-424B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs;** and
2. **Certification Regarding Lobbying.** If paragraph two of the certification applies, then complete and submit SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying which is provided as an optional form in the application package.

Required Documents:

1. **Budget Narrative (Double-spaced, no page limit)**
The Budget Narrative should detail the proposed use of project funds in achieving projected outcomes. The Budget Narrative should address how the funds are allocated to each eligible activity will be spent and how costs were determined for each budget item.
2. **Program Narrative (Double-spaced, no page limit)**
For the proposed project, the application must include a program narrative that provides a detailed overview description of the proposed project and thoroughly addresses the objectives.

C. Program-Specific Required Documents and Information

The Nondisclosure Agreement (NDA), the Project Narrative, Budget Information, and any supplemental attachments. Contact the program office for instructions regarding additional required forms and disclosures.

D. Post-Application Requirements for Successful Applicants

Each applicant selected for funding will submit a summary of personnel required, space necessary to execute operations (e.g., perform equipment maintenance, prepare equipment for use, etc.) and operational plans to execute field operations, and where appropriate laboratory operations. See Eligibility – Subsection C. “Requirements for Personnel, Partners, and Other Parties.”

Additional requirements may be communicated during or after the Pre-Application phase.



Step 4: Learn about the Award Review Process

In this step

Application Review Information [22](#)

Intergovernmental Review [26](#)

Application Review Information

A. Threshold Criteria

The program uses risk reduction and will optimize allocation of resources to ensure ongoing risk reduction is done in the most effective and efficient way possible. FEMA will review the applicants against the eligibility criteria for this funding opportunity. All applications and required forms must be submitted as detailed in this funding opportunity and as communicated during the Pre-Application process.

B. Application Criteria

Applications that receive a “No” response on the following questions are automatically disqualified and will not be scored on the weighted criteria.

1. Is the respondent an eligible type of entity as defined in the NOFO (e.g., state/local agency, regional organization, public institution of higher education, eligible tribal government, relevant public safety, or air monitoring agency)?
 - a. Yes = Pass (move on to item 2)
 - b. No = Fail (application is disqualified and not scored further)
2. Does the respondent demonstrate the ability and authority to support BioWatch operations in one or more of the specified metropolitan areas as required by the NOFO?
 - a. Yes = Pass (application proceeds to weighted scoring)
 - b. No = Fail (application is disqualified and not scored further)

Applications with “Yes” responses on the two questions above, will be scored using weighted criteria, assessed on a scale 1-5, with 5 = Exceeding requirements/Exceptional approach; 4 = Meets most requirements/Good approach; 3 = Meets some requirements/Adequate approach; 2 = Meets few requirements/Marginal approach; 1 = Does not meet requirements/Inadequate approach. Criteria and associated weights are:

1. **Relevant BioWatch Field Operations and Federal Assistance Experience (Weight: 35%)**
 - Previous experience performing BioWatch field operations or holding a BioWatch cooperative agreement.
 - Previous air monitoring experience will be scored higher than no air monitoring experience.
 - Experience with federal cooperative agreements or similar federal assistance (program administration, compliance, financial management).
 - Prior involvement with BioWatch stakeholders (e.g., participation in jurisdictional advisory structures or similar bodies).
2. **Operational Readiness and Technical Approach (Weight: 25%)**
 - Ability to stand up or fully execute operations within a defined timeframe (e.g., 90 days of award).

- Understanding of and ability to adhere to BioWatch Field Operations requirements, including:
 - Quality Assurance/Quality Control
 - Collection of exposed filters
 - Installation of unexposed filter holder assembly (FHA)
 - Transport of samples to the laboratory for analysis
 - Chain of custody procedures
 - Other record keeping (e.g., maintenance log)
 - Participation in required audits and the BioWatch Evaluation Program.
 - Demonstrated field expertise regarding BioWatch air quality monitoring, environmental sampling, and the PSU (Portable Sampling Unit) operation and maintenance).
- 3. **Staffing, Management, and Training Approach (Weight: 20%)**
 - Clear plan for staffing and acquisition/hiring processes; direct staff will be scored higher than subcontractor model.
 - Qualifications and roles of key personnel (field operators, field leads/managers).
 - Approach to training and maintaining competency in BioWatch operations, safety, and SOP updates.
- 4. **Facilities, Logistics, Safety, and Security (Weight: 10%)**
 - Adequate plan for storage, office, and operational space (e.g., PSU storage, inventory management, workspace for maintenance).
 - Transportation and vehicle plan to support daily and surge operations.
 - Safety and security consideration for sites, personnel, and equipment, consistent with program guidance.
- 5. **Administrative, Reporting, and Fiscal Capability (Weight: 10%)**
 - Demonstrated ability to meet reporting requirements (e.g., financial reports, performance reports, exception reports, and equipment inventory).
 - Understanding of budget elements needed to support field operations (personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, indirect costs).
 - Overall fiscal responsibility and systems to manage federal funds and cooperative agreement requirements.

C. Financial Integrity Criteria

Before making an award, the awarding agency is required to review OMB-designated databases for applicants' eligibility and financial integrity information. This is required by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 ([Pub. L. No. 116-117, § 2 \(2020\)](#), [41 U.S.C. § 2313](#), and the "Do Not Pay Initiative" ([31 U.S.C. 3354](#))). For more details, please see [2 C.F.R. § 200.206](#).

Thus, the Financial Integrity Criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

1. Financial stability.
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards.

3. History of performance in managing federal award.
4. Reports and findings from audits.
5. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

D. Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Risk Review

Before making an award expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, defined at 41 U.S.C. § 134, over the period of performance:

1. The awarding agency is required by [41 U.S.C. § 2313](#) to review or consider certain information found in SAM.gov. For details, please see [2 C.F.R. § 200.206\(a\)\(2\)](#).
2. An applicant may review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in [SAM.gov](#).
3. Before making decisions in the risk review required by [2 C.F.R. § 200.206](#), the awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant.

E. Reviewer Selection

Merit Review panel(s) will be comprised of federal employees with relevant experience and background in areas such as BioWatch operations, environmental biodetection, and grants management. Illustrative skill sets of the reviewers may include, but are not limited to:

- Familiarity with air sampling unit filter collection.
- Familiarity with laboratory sample processing and analysis.
- Familiarity with environmental biodetection goals, objectives, technologies, and processes.
- Experience working with state and local government entities in the execution of an interdependent mission.

FEMA will assign reviewers to specific panels to include a diversity of skills, knowledge, and experience on each panel. If a particular expertise or body of knowledge is missing on a particular panel, FEMA will have SMEs available on an “as needed” basis.

The total number of panels and number of reviewers within each panel will be determined based on information gathered during the Initial Review. This data may include, for example, the total number of proposed NOFO applications received. To balance workload, FEMA will strive to assign a similar number of proposed NOFO applications to each panel.

The knowledge of reviewers’ identities and panel assignments will be limited to only those determined with a “need to know” by the ORP. Reviewers will have limited contact with each other during the objective review process to ensure the objectivity of their scores and comments.

The ORP Chairperson is responsible for identifying enough reviewers with the appropriate skills and time available to participate in the objective review process. In addition to possessing the experience noted in Section 6.1, all reviewers should:

- Commit to completing the entire review process, including at least 20 hours for the Individual Review and approximately 8 hours for the Panel Review.
- Be free of all conflicts of interest.
- Have access to a telephone, computer (with minimum technical requirements including the Microsoft Office Suite, internet browser, Adobe Acrobat Reader), and high-speed internet connection.
- Possess supervisor’s approval to serve as a BioWatch Full and Open Cooperative Agreement NOFO

Merit Review Panel member.

F. Merit Review Process

The Objective Review Panel (ORP) will review BioWatch Full and Open Cooperative Agreement NOFO applications and recommend applications for funding to the SA. The ORP is comprised of the ORP Chairperson and at least 3 Merit Reviewers, and all ORP members are federal employees. Merit Review Panel(s) within the ORP will evaluate and score applications against pre-determined criteria contained herein. All reviewers will be asked to identify any potential affiliations or conflicts of interests associated with the local agencies and any associated subcontract/subaward recipients. The ORP Chairperson will oversee the Merit Review, compile the NOFO application scores, and recommend the most qualified applications to receive BioWatch Cooperative Agreement funding. The SA is responsible for the final award selection.

G. Final Selection

The BioWatch Program Office will make recommendations based on assessment scores and FEMA leadership will approve final selections. DHS policy, geographic location, and other factors may be used to select a recipient out of score order.

Intergovernmental Review

A. Requirement Description and State Single Point of Contact

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372. No further action is needed if you do not find a contact for your state in the [latest version of the SPOC list](#).

Note: This requirement does not apply to tribal governments.



Step 5: Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Award Notices	<u>28</u>
Post-award requirements and administration	<u>28</u>
Other	<u>38</u>

Award Notices

A. Notice of Award

The AOR should carefully read the federal award package before accepting the federal award. The federal award package includes instructions on administering the federal award as well as terms and conditions for the award.

By applying, applicants agree to comply with the prerequisites stated in this NOFO and the material terms and conditions of the federal award, should they receive an award.

FEMA will provide the federal award package to the applicant electronically in FEMA GO. Award packages include an Award Letter, Summary Award Memo, Agreement Articles, and Obligating Document. An award package notification email is sent by the grant application system to the submitting AOR.

B. Pass-Through Requirements

Not applicable

C. Note Regarding Pre-Award Costs

Even if pre-award costs are allowed, beginning performance prior to award is at the applicant or sub-applicant's own risk.

D. Obligation of Funds

The grant funds are obligated in accordance with applicable laws, and no later than upon award.

E. Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants

Notification to unsuccessful applicants will occur via email within 30 days of the decision not to fund.

Post-Award Requirements and Administration

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Presidential Executive Orders

Recipients must comply with the requirements of Presidential Executive Orders related to grants (also known as federal assistance and financial assistance), the full text of which are incorporated by reference.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on November 21, 2025, in *County of Santa Clara et al. v. Noem, et al.*, No. 25-cv-08330-WHO (N.D. Cal.), this requirement does not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, this requirement will immediately become effective. Also, pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on November 21, 2025, in *City of Chicago et al. v. Noem, et al.*, No. 25-CV-12765 (N.D. Ill.), this requirement does not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to

the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, this requirement will immediately become effective.

In accordance with [Executive Order 14305, Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty \(June 6, 2025\)](#), and to the extent allowed by law, eligible state, local, tribal, and territorial grant recipients under this NOFO are permitted to purchase unmanned aircraft systems, otherwise known as drones, or equipment or services for the detection, tracking, or identification of drones and drone signals, consistent with the legal authorities of state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. Recipients must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and adhere to any statutory requirements on the use of federal funds for such unmanned aircraft systems, equipment, or services.

Subrecipient Monitoring and Management

Pass-through entities must comply with the requirements for subrecipient monitoring and management as set forth in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331-333](#).

Termination of a Federal Award

1. The termination condition below applies to the grant award and the “Termination of a Federal Award” term and condition in the FY 2026 DHS Standard Terms and Conditions does not.
2. Termination of the federal award by FEMA
FEMA, in its sole discretion, may terminate the federal award in whole or in part for one of the following reasons consistent with [2 C.F.R. § 200.340](#):
 - a. If the recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the federal award.
 - b. With the consent of the recipient, in which case FEMA and the recipient must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.
 - c. If the federal award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities. Under this provision, FEMA may terminate the award for these purposes if any of the following reasons apply:
 - i. FEMA determines that a specific award objective is ineffective at achieving program goals as described in this NOFO;
 - ii. FEMA determines that an objective of the award as described in this NOFO will be ineffective at achieving program goals or agency priorities;
 - iii. FEMA determines that the design of the grant program is flawed relative to program goals or agency priorities;
 - iv. FEMA determines that the grant program is not aligned to either the DHS Strategic Plan, the FEMA Strategic Plan, or successor policies or documents;
 - v. FEMA changes or re-evaluates the goals or priorities of the grant program and determines that the award will be ineffective at achieving the updated program goals or agency priorities; or

- vi. For other reasons based on program goals or agency priorities described in the termination notice provided to the recipient pursuant to [2 C.F.R. § 200.341](#).
 - d. For convenience, including if the award no longer advances the national interest. Termination for convenience only applies to discretionary awards, as that term is defined at [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#). The term “discretionary award” does not include grants where legislation establishes an entitlement to the funds on the part of the recipient, such as block grants or those awarded based on a statutory formula.
3. Termination of a Subaward by the Pass-Through Entity
- a. The pass-through entity may terminate a subaward in whole or in part for one of the following reasons identified in [2 C.F.R. § 200.340](#):
 - i. If the subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the federal award.
 - ii. With the consent of the subrecipient, in which case the pass-through entity and the subrecipient must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.
 - b. If the pass-through entity’s award has been terminated the pass-through entity must terminate its subawards.
4. Termination by the Recipient or Subrecipient
- The recipient or subrecipient may terminate the federal award in whole or in part as identified in [2 C.F.R. § 200.340](#) upon sending FEMA or pass-through entity a written notification of the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. However, if FEMA or pass-through entity determines that the remaining portion of the federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which the federal award was made, FEMA or pass-through entity may terminate the federal award in its entirety.
5. Impacts of Termination
- a. When FEMA terminates the federal award in whole or in part before the end of the period of performance due to the recipient’s or subrecipient’s material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the federal award, FEMA will report the termination in SAM.gov in the manner described at [2 C.F.R. § 200.340\(c\)](#).
 - b. When the federal award is terminated in part or its entirety, FEMA or pass-through entity and recipient or subrecipient remain responsible for compliance with the requirements in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.344](#) and [200.345](#).
6. Notification requirements
- FEMA or the pass-through entity must provide written notice of the termination in a manner consistent with [2 C.F.R. § 200.341](#). The federal award will be terminated on the date of the notification unless stated otherwise in the notification.
7. Opportunities to Object and Appeals
- Where applicable, when FEMA terminates the federal award, the written notification of termination will provide the opportunity and describe the process to object and provide information challenging the action, pursuant to [2 C.F.R. § 200.342](#).
8. Effects of Suspension and Termination

The allowability of costs to the recipient or subrecipient resulting from financial obligations incurred by the recipient or subrecipient during a suspension or after the termination of a federal award are subject to [2 C.F.R. § 200.343](#).

B. DHS Standard Terms and Conditions

A recipient under this funding opportunity must comply with the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions in effect as of the federal award, unless a term and condition specifically indicates otherwise. The DHS Standard Terms and Conditions are available online and can be found at [DHS Standard Terms and Conditions | Homeland Security](#). For continuation awards, the terms and conditions for the initial federal award will apply unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of the continuation award. The specific version of the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions applicable to the federal award will be in the federal award package.

A recipient under this funding opportunity must comply with the FY 2026 Department of Homeland Security Standard Terms and Conditions, with the following exceptions. The term titled “Communication and Cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration Officials” and paragraph (2)(a)(ii) of the term titled “Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act” do not apply to any federal award under this funding opportunity.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on November 21, 2025, in *County of Santa Clara et al. v. Noem, et al.*, No. 25-cv-08330-WHO (N.D. Cal.), the following terms and conditions do not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect: (1) The DHS Standard Term and Condition titled “Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act”; and (2) the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled “All Executive Orders Related to Grants”. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, both terms will immediately become effective. As stated above, Paragraph (2)(a)(ii) of the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled “Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act” will not apply even if the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on November 21, 2025, in *City of Chicago et al. v. Noem, et al.*, No. 25-CV-12765 (N.D. Ill.), the following terms and conditions do not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect: (1) the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled “Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act”; and (2) the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled “All Executive Orders Related to Grants”. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, both terms will immediately become effective. As stated above, paragraph (2)(a)(ii) of the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled “Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act” will not apply even if the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on October 31, 2025, in *City of Seattle v. Trump, et al.*, No. 2:25-cv-01435-BJR (W.D. Wa.), the following terms and conditions do not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order

remains in effect: the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled " Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government's Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act ". If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, the term will immediately become effective. As stated above, paragraph (2)(a)(ii) the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled "Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government's Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act" will not apply even if the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished.

Note: While not a requirement in the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, as a best practice, entities receiving funds through this program should ensure that cybersecurity is integrated into the design, development, operation, and maintenance of investments that impact information technology (IT) and/ or operational technology (OT) systems.

Additionally, the recipient and subrecipient must take reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including protected personally identifiable information (PII) and other types of information per [2 C.F.R. § 200.303\(e\)](#).

C. Financial Reporting Requirements

Recipients must report obligations and expenditures through a federal financial report. The Federal Financial Report (FFR) form, also known as SF-425, is integrated in FEMA GO but, for reference, is available online at [Post-Award Reporting Forms](#).

Recipients must submit the FFR quarterly throughout the period of performance (POP) as detailed below:

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Report Due Date</i>
August 1 – November 1	December 1
November 1 – February 1	March 1
February 1 – May 1	June 1
May 1 – August 1	September 1

The final FFR is due within 120 calendar days after the end of the POP.

FEMA may withhold future federal awards and cash payments if FFRs are not timely, complete, detailed, and accurate. FFRs showing inadequate progress may also cause future federal awards and cash payments to be withheld.

D. Programmatic Performance Reporting Requirements

1. A Performance Report must be submitted annually throughout the Period of Performance..
 - a. Quarterly reports or semi-annual reports will be at the discretion of the BioWatch Director of Field Operations.
2. A Performance Report must include
 - a. References to the Sample Tracking Tool system and a statement that daily/weekly/monthly reports the recipient will post.
 - b. Cooperative Agreement recipients will submit the following as required by the BioWatch

Field Operations SOP:

- i. List of field personnel
 - ii. Collector inventory
 - iii. Special events list
 - iv. Exception reports
 - v. Maintenance logs
 - vi. Operations and Maintenance reports
 - vii. Quarterly repair parts purchased reports
 - viii. Annual program reports
 - ix. Other as required by the Field Operations SOP
3. In Addition, Cooperative Agreement recipients will submit Corrective Action Plans in response to the BioWatch Evaluation Program BWEPS and Quality Assurance QA audits and as directed by the BioWatch Director of Field Operations. The Progress Report must be submitted through FEMA GO.
 4. Performance Report Due Dates are as detailed below:

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Report Due Date</i>
August 1-July 31	August 31

E. Closeout Reporting Requirements

Within 120 days after the end of the period of performance, or after an amendment has been issued to close out a federal award, recipients must submit the following:

1. The final request for payment, if applicable.
2. The final FFR.
3. The final progress report detailing all accomplishments.
4. A qualitative narrative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance.
5. Other documents required by this NOFO, terms and conditions of the federal award, or other DHS Component guidance.

After the awarding agency approves these reports, it will issue a closeout notice. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds to be de-obligated, and address the record maintenance requirement. Unless a longer period applies, such as due to an audit or litigation, for equipment or real property used beyond the period of performance, or due to other circumstances outlined in [2 C.F.R. § 200.334](#), this maintenance requirement is three years from the date of the final FFR.

Also, pass-through entities are responsible for closing out those subawards as described in [2 C.F.R. § 200.344\(e\)](#); subrecipients are still required to submit closeout materials within 90 calendar days of the subaward period of performance end date. When a subrecipient completes all closeout requirements, pass-through entities must promptly complete all closeout actions in time for the recipient to submit all necessary documentation and information to the awarding agency during the closeout of their prime award.

The recipient is responsible for returning any balances of unobligated or unliquidated funds that have been drawn down that are not authorized to be retained per [2 C.F.R. § 200.344\(e\)](#).

Administrative Closeout

Administrative closeout is a mechanism for FEMA to unilaterally execute closeout of an award. FEMA will use available award information in lieu of final recipient reports, per [2 C.F.R. § 200.344\(h\)-\(i\)](#). It is an activity of last resort, and if FEMA administratively closes an award, this may negatively impact a recipient's ability to obtain future funding.

F. Additional Reporting Requirements

Anytime there is a change in personnel for any of the awardees or if applicable, subrecipients, their information needs to be submitted for approval (all the previous personal information identified).

G. Disclosing Information per 2 C.F.R. § 180.335

Before entering into a federal award, the applicant must notify the awarding agency if it knows that the applicant or any of the principals (as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 180.995](#)) for the federal award:

1. Are presently excluded or disqualified;
2. Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against you for one of those offenses within that time period;
3. Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with the commission of any of the offenses listed in [2 C.F.R. § 180.800\(a\)](#); or
4. Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

This requirement is fully described in [2 C.F.R. § 180.335](#). Additionally, [2 C.F.R. § 180.350](#) requires recipients to provide immediate notice to the awarding agency at any time after entering a federal award if:

1. The recipient learns that either it failed to earlier disclose information as required by [2 C.F.R. § 180.335](#);
2. Due to changed circumstances, the applicant or any of the principals for the federal award now meet the criteria at [2 C.F.R. § 180.335](#) listed above.

H. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

[Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) states the terms and conditions for recipient integrity and performance matters used for this funding opportunity.

If the total value of all active federal grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts for a recipient exceeds \$10 million at any time during the period of performance:

1. The recipient must maintain the currency of information reported in SAM.gov about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in [paragraph \(b\)](#) of Appendix XII;
2. The required reporting frequency is described in [paragraph \(d\)](#) of Appendix XII.

I. Single Audit Reports

A recipient expending \$1 million or more in federal awards (as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#)) during its fiscal year must undergo an audit. This may be either a single audit complying with [2 C.F.R. § 200.514](#) or a program-specific audit complying with [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.501](#) and [200.507](#). Audits must follow [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F, 2 C.F.R. § 200.501](#), and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) [Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards](#).

J. Monitoring and Oversight

Per [2 C.F.R. § 200.337](#), DHS and its authorized representatives have the right of access to any records of the recipient or subrecipient pertinent to a federal award to perform audits, site visits, and any other official use. The right also includes timely and reasonable access to the recipient's or subrecipient's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents or the federal award in general.

Pursuant to this right and per [2 C.F.R. § 200.329](#), DHS may conduct desk reviews and make site visits to review and evaluate project accomplishments and management control systems as well as provide any required technical assistance. Recipients and subrecipients must respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to a federal award.

K. Program Evaluation

Title I of the [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018](#) (Evidence Act), Pub. L. No. 115-435 (2019), urges federal agencies to use program evaluation as a critical tool to learn, improve delivery, and elevate program service and delivery across the program lifecycle. Evaluation means “an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency.” Evidence Act, § 101 (codified at 5 U.S.C. § 311). OMB A-11, Section 290 (Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities) further outlines the standards and practices for evaluation activities. Federal agencies are required to specify any requirements for recipient participation in program evaluation activities ([2 C.F.R. § 200.301](#)). Program evaluation activities incorporated from the outset in the NOFO, and program design and implementation allow recipients and agencies to meaningfully document and measure progress and achievement towards program goals and objectives, and identify program outcomes and lessons learned, as part of demonstrating recipient performance ([2 C.F.R. § 200.301](#)).

As such, recipients and subrecipients are required to participate in a Program Office (PO) or a DHS Component-led evaluation, if selected. This may be carried out by a third party on behalf of the PO or the DHS Component. Such an evaluation may involve information collections including but not limited to, records of the recipients; surveys, interviews, or discussions with individuals who benefit from the federal award, program operating personnel, and award recipients; and site visits or other observation of recipient activities, as specified in a DHS Component or PO-approved evaluation plan. More details about evaluation requirements may be provided in the federal award, if available at that time, or following the award as evaluation requirements are finalized. Evaluation costs incurred during the period of performance are allowable costs (either as direct or indirect) in accordance with [2 C.F.R. § 200.413](#).

Recipients and subrecipients are also encouraged, but not required, to participate in any additional evaluations after the period of performance ends, although any costs incurred to participate in such evaluations are not allowed and may not be charged to the federal award.

L. Payment Information

Recipients will submit payment requests in FEMA GO under this program.

Instructions to Grant Recipients Pursuing Payments

FEMA is instituting additional reviews on all grant payments and obligations to ensure allowability in accordance with [2 C.F.R. § 200.305](#). These measures will ensure funds are disbursed appropriately while continuing to support and prioritize communities who rely on FEMA for assistance. Once a recipient submits a payment request, FEMA will review the request. If FEMA approves a payment, recipients will be notified by FEMA GO and the payment will be delivered pursuant to the recipient's SAM.gov financial information. If FEMA disapproves a payment, FEMA will inform the recipient.

Processing and Payment Timeline

FEMA must comply with regulations governing payments to grant recipients per [2 C.F.R. § 200.305](#). For grant recipients other than states, [2 C.F.R. § 200.305\(b\)\(3\)](#) stipulates that FEMA is to make payments on a reimbursement basis within 30 days after receipt of the payment request, unless FEMA reasonably believes the request to be improper. For state recipients, [2 C.F.R. § 200.305\(a\)](#) instructs that federal grant payments are governed by Treasury-State Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) agreement ("Treasury-State agreement") and default procedures codified at [31 C.F.R. part 205](#) and Treasury Financial Manual 4A-200, "Overall Disbursing Rules for All Federal Agencies."

Treasury-State agreements generally apply to "major federal assistance programs" that are governed by [31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart A](#) and are identified in the Treasury-State agreement in [31 C.F.R. §§ 205.2, 205.6](#). Where a federal assistance (grant) program is not governed by subpart A, payment and funds transfers from FEMA to the state are subject to [31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B](#). Subpart B requires FEMA to "limit a funds transfer to a state to the minimum amounts needed by the state and must time the disbursement to be in accord with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the state in carrying out a federal assistance program or project. The timing and amount of funds transfers must be as close as is administratively feasible to a state's actual cash outlay for direct program costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs" per [31 C.F.R. § 205.33\(a\)](#). Nearly all FEMA grants are not "major federal assistance programs." As a result, payments to states for those grants are subject to the "default" rules of [31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B](#).

If additional information is needed, a request for information will be issued by FEMA to the recipient; recipients are strongly encouraged to respond to any additional FEMA request for information inquiries within three business days. If an adequate response is not received, the request may be denied, and the entity may need to submit a new reimbursement request; this will re-start the 30-day timeline.

Submission Process

All non-disaster grant program reimbursement requests must be reviewed and approved by FEMA prior to drawdowns.

For all non-disaster reimbursement requests (regardless of system), please ensure submittal of the following information:

1. Grant ID / Award Number

2. Total amount requested for drawdown
3. Purpose of drawdown and timeframe covered (must be within the award performance period)
4. Subrecipient Funding Details (if applicable).
 - Is funding provided directly or indirectly to a subrecipient?
 - If **no**, include statement “This grant funding is not being directed to a subrecipient.”
 - If **yes**, provide the following details:
 - The name, mission statement, and purpose of each subrecipient receiving funds, along with the amount allocated and the specific role or activity being reimbursed.
 - Whether the subrecipient’s work or mission involves supporting aliens, regardless of whether FEMA funds support such activities.
 - Whether the payment request includes an activity involving support to aliens.
 - Whether the subrecipient has any diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.¹
5. Supporting documentation to demonstrate that expenses are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary under [2 C.F.R. part 200](#) and in compliance with the grant’s NOFO, award terms, and applicable federal regulations.

M. Immigration Conditions

The term titled “Communication and Cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration Officials” and paragraph (2)(a)(ii) of the term titled “Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act” in the [FY 2026 DHS Standard Terms and Conditions](#) do not apply to any federal award under this funding opportunity.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on November 21, 2025, in *County of Santa Clara et al. v. Noem, et al.*, No. 25-cv-08330-WHO (N.D. Cal.), the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled "Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act" does not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, the term will immediately become effective.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on November 21, 2025, in *City of Chicago et al. v. Noem, et al.*, No. 25-CV-12765 (N.D. Ill.), the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled "Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act" does not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, the term will immediately become effective.

Pursuant to the preliminary injunction order issued on October 31, 2025, in *City of Seattle v. Trump, et al.*, No. 2:25-cv-01435-BJR (W.D. Wa.), the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled "Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions under the False Claims Act" does not apply to awards or subawards issued to any of the plaintiffs subject to the preliminary injunction order while the order remains in effect. If the preliminary injunction is extended to cover additional plaintiffs, this provision will also not apply to any awards or subawards issued to those plaintiffs. If the preliminary injunction is stayed, vacated, or extinguished, the term will immediately become effective.

As stated above, Paragraph(2)(a)(ii) of the DHS Standard Term and Condition titled "Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws Material to the Government’s Payment Decisions Under the False Claims Act" will not apply even if any of these preliminary injunctions are stayed, vacated, or extinguished.

Other Information

A. Period of Performance Extension

Recipients should consult with their FEMA point of contact for requirements related to a performance period extension.

B. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance

FEMA is required to consider effects of its actions on the environment and historic properties to ensure that activities, grants and programs funded by FEMA comply with federal Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies.

Recipients and subrecipients proposing projects with the potential to impact the environment or cultural resources, such as the modification or renovation of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, either new construction or replacement of buildings, structures, and facilities, must participate in the FEMA EHP review process. This includes conducting early engagement to help identify EHP resources, such as threatened or endangered species, and historic properties; submitting a detailed project description with supporting documentation to determine whether the proposed project has the potential to impact EHP resources; and, identifying mitigation measures, alternative courses of action, or both that may lessen impacts to those resources.

FEMA is sometimes required to consult with other regulatory agencies and the public to complete the review process. Federal law requires EHP review to be completed before federal funds are released to carry out proposed projects. FEMA may not be able to fund projects that are not in compliance with applicable EHP laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies. FEMA may recommend mitigation measures, alternative courses of action, or both to lessen impacts to EHP resources and bring the project into EHP compliance. If a proposed project has been evaluated by another federal agency, FEMA may be able to streamline portions of the EHP review by adopting or supplementing previous analyses performed under the National Environmental Policy Act. If a proposed project has previously been reviewed by another federal agency, please provide those documents for FEMA's consideration.

EHP guidance is found at [Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation](#). The site contains links to documents identifying agency EHP responsibilities and program requirements, such as implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act and other EHP laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. DHS and FEMA EHP policy is also found in the [EHP Directive & Instruction](#).

All FEMA actions, including grants, must comply with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) criteria or any more restrictive federal, state, or local floodplain management standards or building code ([44 C.F.R. § 9.11\(d\)\(6\)](#)). For actions located within or that may affect a floodplain or wetland, the following alternatives must be considered: a) no action; b) alternative locations; and c) alternative actions.

The EHP screening form is available at [Environmental & Historic Preservation Grant Preparation Resources](#).

C. Procurement Compliance

When purchasing under a FEMA award, recipients and subrecipients must comply with the federal procurement standards in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327](#). To assist with determining whether an action is a procurement or instead a subaward, please consult [2 C.F.R. § 200.331](#).

For detailed guidance on the federal procurement standards, recipients and subrecipients should refer to various materials issued by FEMA's Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT). The [Procurement Under Grants Policy Guide \(PUGPG\)](#) and additional resources can be found on the PDAT website at [Procurement and Contracting](#).

When conducting procurement transactions under a federal award, states, Indian Tribes (Tribal Nations), the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and their agencies must follow their own documented procurement policies and procedures as outlined in [2 C.F.R. § 200.317](#). They are also required to comply with rules for domestic preferences ([2 C.F.R. § 200.322](#)), the use of recovered materials ([2 C.F.R. § 200.323](#)), and ensure all necessary contract provisions are included ([2 C.F.R. § 200.327](#)). If these entities do not have documented procurement policies or procedures, they must follow the federal procurement rules listed in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.318-200.327](#).

Note: Indian Tribes are exempt from the recovered materials requirements in [2 C.F.R. § 200.323](#).

Local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients must have and use their own documented procurement procedures that reflect applicable state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable federal law and the standards identified in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.318-200.327](#).

Important Changes to Procurement Standards in 2 C.F.R. Part 200

On April 22, 2024, OMB updated various parts of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, among them the procurement standards. These revisions apply to all FEMA awards with a federal award date or disaster declaration date on or after October 1, 2024, unless specified otherwise. The changes include updates to the Federal Procurement Standards, which govern how FEMA award recipients and subrecipients must purchase under a FEMA award.

More information on OMB's revisions to the Federal Procurement Standards can be found in [Purchasing Under a FEMA Award: 2024 OMB Revisions Fact Sheet](#).

Threshold Increases Effective October 1, 2025

Effective October 1, 2025, the United States Office of Management and Budget increased the Federal micro-purchase threshold from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the Federal simplified acquisition threshold from \$250,000 to \$350,000. These updated thresholds now apply to recipient and subrecipient activities under [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#), including procurements and budget approval requests executed on or after October 1, 2025, for all open financial assistance awards.

Procurement Standards: Competition and Conflict of Interest

All procurement transactions under a federal award must provide for full and open competition. To ensure compliance, recipients and subrecipients must avoid practices that restrict competition. Examples of restrictive practices include, but are not limited to:

- Placing unreasonable requirements on firms to qualify to do business;
- Requiring unnecessary experience or excessive bonding;
- Engaging in noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or affiliated companies;
- Awarding noncompetitive contracts to consultants on retainer;
- Specifying only a “brand name” product instead of allowing “an equal” product to be offered; and
- Taking arbitrary actions during the procurement process.

Real Conflict of Interest

Under [2 C.F.R. § 200.318\(c\)\(1\)](#), local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients must maintain written standards of conduct to address conflicts of interest. Employees, officers, or agents involved in the selection, award, or administration of contracts are prohibited from participating if they have a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict arises when the individual, their immediate family, partner, or an organization they are affiliated with has a financial or other interest in, or stands to benefit from, a firm considered for a contract.

Additionally, officers, employees, and agents may not solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or subcontractors. However, recipients or subrecipients may establish standards for situations where the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. Violations of these standards must result in disciplinary actions as outlined in the recipient’s or subrecipient’s policies.

Organizational Conflict of Interest

Under [2 C.F.R. § 200.318\(c\)\(2\)](#), recipients or subrecipients with a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local, tribal, or territorial (SLTT) government must maintain written standards of conduct to address organizational conflicts of interest. An organizational conflict of interest occurs when a relationship with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary compromises, or appears to compromise, the recipient’s or subrecipient’s impartiality in conducting a procurement action.

Recipients or subrecipients must disclose any potential organizational conflicts of interest in writing to FEMA or the pass-through entity, as required by FEMA policy.

Contractors Drafting Requirements

Per [2 C.F.R. § 200.319\(b\)](#), contractors that develop or draft specifications, statements of work, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals are prohibited from competing for those procurements. FEMA considers this an organizational conflict of interest and extends this restriction to contractors who assist recipients or subrecipients in developing grant applications, project plans, or budgets.

This prohibition also applies to former employees who worked on such activities while employed by the recipient or subrecipient. Unless the recipient or subrecipient solicits and awards a contract that explicitly includes both the development and execution of specifications (or similar elements), and the contract was procured in compliance with [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317–200.327](#), federal funds cannot be used to

pay the contractor to perform the work. This rule applies to all contracts funded with federal grant funds, including pre-award costs (e.g., grant writer fees) and post-award costs (e.g., grant management fees).

Supply Schedules and Purchasing Programs

Generally, a recipient or subrecipient may seek to procure goods or services from a federal supply schedule, state supply schedule, or group purchasing agreement.

Information on General Services Administration programs, including multiple award schedules, for states, Indian Tribes, and local governments, and their instrumentalities, can be found in [Purchasing Resource and Support for State and Local Government](#).

Procurement Documentation

Per [2 C.F.R. § 200.318\(i\)](#), local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients are required to maintain and retain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records must include, but are not limited to, the rationale for the procurement method, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price. States and Indian Tribes (Tribal Nations) are reminded that in order for any cost to be allowable, it must be adequately documented per [2 C.F.R. §200.403\(g\)](#).

Examples of the types of documents that would cover this information include but are not limited to:

- Solicitation documentation, such as requests for quotes, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals;
- Responses to solicitations, such as quotes, bids, or proposals;
- Pre-solicitation independent cost estimates and post-solicitation cost/price analyses on file for review by federal personnel, if applicable;
- Contract documents and amendments, including required contract provisions; and
- Other documents required by federal regulations applicable at the time a grant is awarded to a recipient.

D. Buy America Preference Requirements for Infrastructure

None of the funds provided under this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in that infrastructure project are produced in the United States.

Recipients and subrecipients provided funds under this program for an infrastructure project must comply with FEMA's implementation requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act, as detailed in [FEMA's Buy America Preference Policy](#). See also [2 C.F.R. Part 184, Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects](#), and [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\), Memorandum M-24-02, Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure](#).

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before

the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

For more information about FEMA's implementation of the Buy America Preference, please visit FEMA's Buy America Preference webpage at [Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov](#).

Waivers

When necessary, recipients (and subrecipients through their pass-through entity) may apply for a waiver from these requirements.

A waiver of the domestic content procurement preference may be granted if FEMA determines that:

- Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest, or
- The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality, or
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

The process for requesting a waiver from the Buy America preference requirements can be found on FEMA's website at ["Buy America" Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure | FEMA.gov](#).

Definitions

For definitions of the key terms of the Build America, Buy America Act, please visit [Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov](#).

E. Mandatory Disclosures

The non-federal entity or applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award, [2 C.F.R. § 200.113](#).

F. Adaptive Support

Pursuant to [Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#), recipients of FEMA financial assistance must ensure that their programs and activities do not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.

G. Record Retention

Record Retention Period

Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-federal entity records pertinent to a federal award generally must be maintained for at least three years from the date the final

FFR is submitted per [2 C.F.R. §200.334](#). Further, if the recipient does not submit a final FFR and the award is administratively closed, FEMA uses the date of administrative closeout as the start of the general record retention period.

The record retention period may be longer than three years or have a different start date in certain cases.

Types of Records to Retain

FEMA requires that recipients and subrecipients maintain the following documentation for federally funded purchases:

- Specifications
- Solicitations
- Competitive quotes or proposals
- Basis for selection decisions
- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Cancelled checks

H. Actions to Address Noncompliance

Non-federal entities receiving financial assistance funding from FEMA are required to comply with requirements in the terms and conditions of their awards or subawards, including the terms set forth in applicable federal statutes, regulations, NOFOs, and policies. Throughout the award lifecycle or even after an award has been closed, FEMA or the pass-through entity may discover potential or actual noncompliance on the part of a recipient or subrecipient.

In the case of any potential or actual noncompliance, FEMA may place special conditions on an award per [2 C.F.R. § 200.208](#) and [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#). FEMA may place a hold on funds until the matter is corrected, or additional information is provided per [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#), or it may do both. Similar remedies for noncompliance with certain federal civil rights laws are authorized pursuant to [44 C.F.R. Part 7](#) and [44 C.F.R. Part 19](#) or other applicable regulations.

If the noncompliance is not able to be corrected by imposing additional conditions or the recipient or subrecipient refuses to correct the matter, FEMA may take other remedies allowed under [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#).

I. Audits

FEMA grant recipients are subject to audit oversight from multiple entities including the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG), the GAO, the pass-through entity, or independent auditing firms for single audits, and may cover activities and costs incurred under the award. Auditing agencies such as the DHS OIG, the GAO, and the pass-through entity (if applicable), and FEMA in its oversight capacity, must have access to records pertaining to the FEMA award.



Contacts and Appendices

Contacts	45
Appendices	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Contacts

A. Program Office

CDR Theresa Gallagher, DHS BioWatch Program Office

Email: Theresa.gallagher@hq.dhs.gov

B. FEMA Grants News

FEMA Grants News provides general information on all FEMA grant programs and maintains a comprehensive database containing key personnel contact information at the federal, state, and local levels. FEMA Grants News is reachable at fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 368-6498, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET.

C. Award Administration Division

GPD's Award Administration Division (AAD) provides support regarding financial matters and budgetary technical assistance. AAD can be contacted at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.

D. Procurement Under Grants Division

The Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) and Buy America Branch (BAB) within GPD's Procurement Under Grants Division offer technical support to ensure compliance with federal procurement and domestic preference standards for FEMA awards. You can reach PDAT at fema-gpd-pdat@fema.dhs.gov and BAB at fema-grants-buyamerica@fema.dhs.gov. When reaching out, please include your FEMA grant program point of contact for reference.

E. FEMA Regional Offices

FEMA Regional Offices also may provide fiscal support, including pre- and post-award administration and technical assistance. FEMA Regional Office contact information is available at [Regions, States and Territories](#).

F. Civil Rights

Consistent with Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination & Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, the FEMA Integration and Coordination Division (ICD) is responsible for ensuring compliance with and enforcement of federal civil rights obligations in connection with programs and services conducted by FEMA. They are reachable at fema-ocr@fema.dhs.gov.

G. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation

The FEMA Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP) provides guidance and information about the EHP review process to FEMA programs and recipients and subrecipients. Send any inquiries regarding compliance for FEMA grant projects under this NOFO to FEMA-OEHP-NOFOQuestions@fema.dhs.gov.

H. Payment and Reporting

FEMA uses FEMA GO for financial reporting, invoicing, and tracking payments. The Direct

Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) method of payment is used for recipients. For any questions about the system, contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at femago@fema.dhs.gov or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET.

I. FEMA GO

For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, please contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at femago@fema.dhs.gov or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET.

J. FEMA Preparedness Toolkit

The FEMA Preparedness Toolkit (PrepToolkit) provides access to tools and resources needed to implement the National Preparedness System and provide a collaborative space for communities completing the Unified Reporting Tool (URT). Recipients complete and submit their Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), and other required assessments using the PrepToolkit. For assistance, contact support@preptoolkit.fema.dhs.gov.

K. Preparedness Grants Manual

Recipients seeking guidance on policies and procedures for managing preparedness grants should reference the Preparedness Grants Manual at Preparedness Grants Manual.