



Department of Emergency Services

Memorandum

109927

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Richard G. Wishnie  
Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services

DATE: October 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Authorization to enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to accept \$1,157,186.00 in federal grant funds to assist the County of Westchester in its efforts to address equipment, training and planning needs in order to enhance the County's capability to (1) prevent terrorist attacks and mitigate against man-made and natural hazards, (2) protect the people of New York, (3) protect New York state's critical infrastructure and key resources, and (4) prepare to respond to and recover from both man-made and natural disasters, in compliance with the FY2024 Urban Area Security Initiative grant program, for the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027.

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Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services (the "Department"), to enter into a grant agreement – DHSES WM24190481/Project No. UN24-1003-D00 – (the "Grant Agreement") with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (the "State") to accept federal grant funds in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,157,186.00 under the State's FY2024 Urban Area Security Initiative grant program (the "FY2024 UASI Grant Program" or "Grant Program"), to assist the County in its efforts to address equipment, training and planning needs in order to enhance the County's capability to (1) prevent terrorist attacks and mitigate against man-made and natural hazards, (2) protect the people of New York, (3) protect New York state's critical infrastructure and key resources, and (4) prepare to respond to and recover from both man-made and natural disasters. The term of the Grant Agreement is for the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027.

Pursuant to the Grant Agreement, the County will continue to fund certain projects from previous grant years including, but not limited to, the development, sustainment and/or

enhancement of interoperable communications equipment systems, the sustainment of a Senior Micro Biologist position to enhance the County's capabilities to mitigate biological incidents, improve its public health readiness training, and strengthen its environmental monitoring capabilities, and the sustainment and/or enhancement of regional response teams including HazMat and Technical Rescue, which are critical to the State's infrastructure protection initiative and support the State's Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response capabilities.

The Grant Agreement will require the County to indemnify the State as follows:

"The [County] shall be solely responsible and answerable in damages for any and all accidents, incidents, and/or injuries to persons (including death) or property arising out of or related to the services to be rendered by the [County] or its subcontractors pursuant to this [Grant Agreement]. The [County] shall indemnify and hold harmless the State and its officers and employees from claims, suits, actions, damages and cost of every nature arising out of the provision of services pursuant to the [Grant Agreement]."

The goals and objectives of the Grant Agreement are, amongst other things, to (1) prevent terrorist attacks and mitigate against man-made and natural hazards, (2) protect the people of New York, (3) protect New York state's critical infrastructure and key resources, and (4) prepare to respond to and recover from both man-made and natural disasters.

The goals and objectives of the Grant Agreement are directed towards (a) the development, sustainment and/or enhancement of interoperable communications systems; (b) the sustainment and/or enhancement of regional response teams including HazMat and Technical Rescue teams, which are critical to the State's infrastructure protection initiative and support the State's MCI response capabilities; and (c) the need to combat violent domestic extremists through ASHE training to ensure fire and EMS personnel receive the appropriate training to prevent and respond to incidents that may involve domestic terrorism (including isolated extremist events through complex coordinated attacks), in compliance with the State's FY2024 UASI Grant Program.

The goals and objectives of this Grant Agreement are satisfied by developing target capabilities as outlined in the federal Homeland Security Grant Program guidelines. Target capabilities include providing assistance to and support for surveillance, detection, interdiction, response, and mitigation recovery operations from man-made and natural disasters.

This Grant Agreement will serve the County's best interests as it will enhance emergency preparedness and preserve the health, safety and general welfare of County residents.

The Department will monitor the progression of the work plan associated with the Grant Agreement to ensure compliance and progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the Grant Program. The Department will monitor the effectiveness of the Grant Agreement through a series of performance measures required by the State.

The Grant Agreement does not constitute the procurement of goods and services. As such, it is not subject to the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

I certify that my department, a) has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

In view of the importance of this program, I recommend approval of the attached resolution.

RGW/cmc  
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 11/20/2024 - RAYMOND SCULY, SECRETARY

**RESOLUTION**

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Emergency Services, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services, is authorized to enter into a grant agreement (the “Grant Agreement”) – DHSES WM24190481/Project No. UN24-1003-D00 – with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (the “State” or “DHSES”), to accept federal grant funds in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,157,186.00, for the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027, in order to address equipment, training and planning needs of the County to enhance the County’s capability to (1) prevent terrorist attacks, and mitigate against man-made and natural hazards, (2) protect the people of New York, (3) protect New York state’s critical infrastructure and key resources, and (4) prepare to respond to and recover from both man-made and natural disasters, in compliance with the State’s FY2024 Urban Area Security Initiative grant program; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County is authorized to defend and indemnify DHSES according to the following indemnification language contained in the Grant Agreement, as follows:

“The [County] shall be solely responsible and answerable in damages for any and all accidents, incidents and/or injuries to persons (including death) or property arising out of or related to the services to be rendered by the [County] or its subcontractors pursuant to this [Grant Agreement]. The [County] shall indemnify and hold harmless the State and its officers and employees from claims, suits, actions, damages and cost of every nature arising out of the provision of services pursuant to the [Grant Agreement].”

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver all instruments and take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited	Fund	Agency	Capital Project Or Org	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Activity	Dollars
	263	20	391Z	9853	T391	8000	\$1,157,186.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 2024-2027 Start Date 09/01/2024 End Date 08/31/2027  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \_\_\_\_\_  
 State Aid \_\_\_\_\_

\$1,157,186.00 Federal Aid \$1,157,186.00  
 (must match resolution) Other \_\_\_\_\_