



**To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority**  
**From: Janell Myhre, Regional Program Manager**  
**Date: March 11, 2021**  
**Re: Item 7: FY 2021 National Priority Projects**

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Approval of the FY2021 National Priority Projects.

**Action or Discussion Item:**

Action.

**Background**

Pursuant to the FY 2021 NOFO, each UASI applicant must include a separate investment for each of the national priorities – cybersecurity, soft targets/crowded places, information/intelligence sharing, emergent threats, and combating domestic violent extremism. Each one of the five national priority projects are to be funded at either 5% (protection of soft target/crowded places, enhancing info/intelligence sharing, and emergent threats) or 7.5% (enhancing cybersecurity and combating domestic violent extremism), totaling to 30% of the total grant award.

Failure to fund the five national priorities at or above the required amount will result in a hold placed on a recipient's grant award. Similar to last year, FEMA will review all national priority projects to determine whether the proposed approach is clear, logical and reasonable to address the priority areas of interest and contribute to a culture of national preparedness. FEMA will use five factors to determine effectiveness – investment strategy, budget, impact/outcomes, collaboration, and past performance.

**Discussion**

In order to satisfy FEMA's requirements, the Management Team collaborated with the UASI regional workgroups and other SMEs to establish a list of National Priority Projects as depicted in Table 1 below. The projects were selected after discussions with our regional subject matter experts on which projects closely satisfy the requirements of the NOFO, including alignment to the region's THIRA/SPR and meeting the criteria for effectiveness, which will be competitively reviewed by DHS/FEMA. All projects are scalable and funding for each National Priority is targeted between \$1,550,625 and \$2,325,938.

Listed in Table One below are the five national priorities and the proposed associated projects for a total of \$9,303,750 – 30% of the grant award.

**Table 1: FY21 UASI National Priority Projects**

<b>Enhancing Cybersecurity</b> ( \$2,325,938 )	<b>Project Description</b>
Virtual Security Operations Center	This project will expand and leverage our existing pilot VSOC project to include multiple jurisdictions and agencies within the regional bay area footprint which would establish a regional Virtual Security Operations Center (V-SOC); conduct a series of meetings to determine the Bay Area’s specific needs, then develop and deploy strategies providing the most protections for the region’s cybersecurity posture.
Bay Area Cyber Incident Response Framework Exercise Series	This project will develop and conduct monthly exercises addressing current cyber security threats in support of the Bay Area Cyber Incident Response Framework to provide the ability for each jurisdiction to exercise at their individual capability level and address distinct IT system gaps.
Cyber Security Insider Threat Mitigation Strategy	This project will develop standards for behavioral analytics of IT end users and non-repudiation across public sector entities to identify and remove potentially malicious actions from internal and external organizations. Deliverables will include a mitigation strategy with Standard Operating Procedures and virtual training sessions.
Cyber Security for Medical Health Organizations	This project will collaborate with public health IT stakeholders through the NCRIC Medical Health Liaison using lessons learned from COVID-19 cyber-attacks, which targeted medical devices. This project will conduct a gap analysis of medical equipment and related IT systems to produce a mitigation and implementation strategy.
Cyber Security Training and Exercise	This project will provide training courses and exercise opportunities in the area of Cyber Security through the Bay Area Regional Training and Exercise Program.
<b>Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places</b> ( \$1,550,625 )	<b>Project Description</b>
High Yield Explosives Gap Analysis and Implementation Strategy	This project will partner with three international airports to conduct a needs assessment and produce an implementation strategy addressing identified gaps in area of high yield explosives for transit in air, land, water affecting the San Francisco Bay Area Securing the Cities (STC) region.

High Yield Explosives Equipment Distribution, Training, and Sustainment	This project will develop an implementation plan to procure and distribute equipment to support objectives identified in the High Yield Explosive Strategy. Project outcomes will also include a sustainability plan to ensure High Yield Explosive teams and capabilities meet ongoing Bay Area standards.
Joint Information System (JIS) Sustainment Project	This project will implement recommendations of the 2020 Bay Area UASI Communications Projects Sustainment Strategy which include formalizing a self-sustaining Joint Information System to implement the Regional JIS Framework; managing the regional ALERTtheBay mass notification sign-up campaign; coordinating warning systems across jurisdictions; overseeing the planning and execution of an annual Mass Notification Conference.
Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places Training and Exercise	This project will provide training courses and exercise opportunities in the area of Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places through the Bay Area Regional Training and Exercise Program.
<b>Enhancing Information &amp; Intelligence Sharing (\$1,550,625)</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Bay Area Vulnerability Assessment and Strategic Plan	This project will hire a subject matter expert to conduct a gap analysis of the Bay Area UASI region's risk profile. This will involve assessment and reporting in the threat areas of violent extremism, including plots, casing, and aspirations. Project outcomes will be comprised of an analysis of threats and related data and development of a strategy to address gaps and their relative nature to national and international threats and hazards.
Telephony Denial of Service (TDoS) Mitigation Project	This project will develop a TDoS mitigation strategy for public safety answering points and 911 call centers in the Bay Area UASI region. Project outputs will include establishing connectivity with ISPs to develop plans for alternative bandwidth, TDoS of non-emergency lines, as well as creating a plan for reporting and mitigating instances of TDoS. An analysis of equipment and system needs will also be an outcome of this project.
Law Enforcement Information Sharing	This project aggregates the discrete databases from individual law enforcement agencies into unified systems, with contributions from across the region accessible through a single interface to all other law enforcement.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Information Sharing	This project analyses the various uses of EOC information sharing systems in the Bay Area. Best practices will be identified for the Bay Area jurisdictions to provide region-wide situational awareness. The ability to develop a common operating picture for EOCs in the Bay Area will be one outcome of this project.
Mass Notification System Users Conference	This project funds a multi-day seminar to learn from real-world experiences using alert and warning systems for large events and emergency incidents. It includes specific platform training and time for all jurisdictions to share best practices.
Regional Broadband Planning and Governance	The project supports regional public safety voice and broadband communications to strengthen governance integration between/among regional partners in order to identify, assess, and report threats of violence and terrorism. Alert and warning and joint information system support to administer public awareness/preparedness campaigns are also project outcomes.
Information and Intelligence Sharing Training and Exercise	This project will provide training courses and exercise opportunities in the area of Information and Intelligence Sharing through the Bay Area Regional Training and Exercise Program.
<b>Addressing Emergent Threats (\$1,550,625)</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Chemical Biological Consequence Management Planning	This project enhances the region's FY20 Information Sharing and Emergent Threat National Priority Projects to create a chemical/biological program that provides coordinated efforts between intelligence, law enforcement, other first responders and public health professionals at all levels of government. A Concept of Operations Plan designed for the local and regional level focusing on emerging Chem-Bio threats, with a related training and exercise component (including consequence management of unmapped viral strains), will be two outcomes of this project.
Chemical Biological Maritime Concept of Operations Planning	This project will partner with United States Coast Guard and the Area Maritime Security Committee to establish Bay Area maritime Chem-Bio detection capabilities. Relationships and plans built in the STC Program will be leveraged to develop a Concept of Operations Plan, with related Equipment Distribution and Training Plans, are outcomes of this project.

Chemical Biological Surveillance/Detection Strategic Plan	This project will conduct an analysis of the Bay Area’s coordination with public health agencies to detect and respond to Chemical-Biological incidents. A strategic plan will be developed to support the Bay Area’s ability to work closely with systems for surveillance and detection of disease threats (e.g. BioWatch / BD21), providing for effective chemical and/or biological agent surveillance to support an inclusive public health or medical measures response. Leveraging the Securing the Cities SF Bay Area partnerships to establish a unified approach to Weapons of Mass Destruction missions will be an outcome of this project.
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Policy Analysis and Implementation Strategy	This project will work with the FBI, DOJ, and other local federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to research best practices in UAV use to provide an analysis and develop UAV policy guidance, standard operating procedures and data sharing protocols. An implementation strategy, including related equipment distribution and training/exercise plans will also be an outcome of this project.
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Equipment Distribution, Training, and Sustainment	This project will develop an overall strategy for procuring and distributing equipment to support objectives identified in the UAV Implementation Plan, including equipment procurement. Project outcomes will also include a sustainability plan to ensure UAV teams and capabilities meet ongoing Bay Area standards.
Information and Intelligence Sharing Training and Exercise	This project will provide training courses and exercise opportunities in the area of Information and Intelligence Sharing through the Bay Area Regional Training and Exercise Program.
<b>Combating Domestic Violent Extremism ( \$2,325,937 )</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Domestic Terrorism Prevention and Awareness Campaign	This project will partner with the Fusion Center to leverage relationships built in the Targeting Violence Terrorism Program (TVTP) to build awareness of the domestic terrorism radicalization process in vulnerable populations, such as social media end users and schools. Funding will be used to conduct trainings for public safety staff, as well as social media companies and community-based organizations, to include instruction on the National Suspicious Activity Report Initiative (NSI).
Domestic Terrorism Prevention Investigation and Information Sharing	This project will support the DHS Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism Targeted Violence to strengthen the crime gun intelligence programs in the Bay Area to provide assistance throughout the region on terrorism related crimes. Outputs will include assisting DA offices,

	forensic labs, law enforcement and intelligence units with investigations and sharing information with federal and state partner agencies. An assessment of equipment, training, and system needs will be included.
Domestic Terrorism Prevention Social Media Reporting Process	This project will coordinate with Silicon Valley social media organizations such as Google, Facebook and Twitter to establish an operational framework identifying indicators of potential threat to life activities in domestic violence extremism and facilitate a public private partnership reporting process.
Combating Domestic Violent Extremism Training and Exercise	This project will provide training courses and exercise opportunities in the area of Combating Domestic Violent Extremism through the Bay Area Regional Training and Exercise Program.