

FY2022 SHSP-Collin County-Fusion Center

Project Summary

Briefly summarize the project, including proposed activities and intended impact.

The North Texas Fusion Center (NTFC) is analysis driven and essential to our Region. The fusion process proactively seeks to identify and prevent threats posed by terrorists or criminal enterprises to include threats to critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR). This project will fund a CI/KR Research Specialist to perform data mining activities, reporting, and monitoring specifically associated with combating a variety of diverse threats to CI/KR facilities and personnel. This will allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen information analysis, product development and dissemination and the FLO network through fusion liaison officer recruitment and training.

The CI/KR Research Specialist will review the NTFC's current critical infrastructure partners, identify gaps as they relate to specific sectors, and prioritize next steps in filling these gaps. Further, the specialist would assist with providing proactive information regarding the need for a threat and/or vulnerability assessment regarding CI/KR and would regularly monitor open source, news, assist with special events and CI/KR data management.

Problem Statement

Provide a detailed account of the issues, threats or hazards that your project will target. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific page references to the regional or state *Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)*, as applicable.

NTFC will continue to enhance information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies by sustaining analytic capability and activities. The Specialist will assist in providing threat and vulnerability assessments events within their coverage area and monitor social media and other informational outlets prior to, during and after events.

During notable events the Specialist will assist in identifying potential threats posted by terrorist and/or criminal actors which will aid in protecting government facilities, critical infrastructure and public citizens.

This project supports the THIRA by providing Intelligence and Information Sharing for a Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA pg. 6-8) and the affect such an attack would have on CI/Kr in our region.

Existing Capability Levels

Describe the existing capability levels, including resources that are currently in place to support this project prior to the use of grant funds.

NTFC operates from 0600 to 1900 hours, Monday – Friday, with one full-time Research Specialist whose salary will be paid using Homeland Security Grant funds. The Specialist will work under the Collin County Sheriff's Office supervision.

NTFC takes an all-crime, all-hazards approach to try to mitigate threats or hazards to the region. They coordinate with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TX DPS) and the Texas Fusion Center (TXFC) for Suspicious Activity Reporting submitted via iWatchTexas.org.

The NTFC maintains a robust network of 355 Fusion Liaison Officers that includes 133 law enforcement officers, 93 private-sector partners, 33 fire personnel, 23 emergency management professionals, 19 military personnel, 17 public health officers, and 37 critical infrastructure advisors. This network maximizes NTFC's ability to support two-way flows of information, increasing the quality and quantity of intelligence products originating from this AOR. In addition to sharing information and intelligence with its FLO partners, NTFC also provides valuable training and resources to further bolster relationships and collaboration in the community.

Collaborative Effort: NTFC houses part-time and full-time personnel from the following agencies: DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), TX DPS, Texas National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force Analyst, Texas Department of Family & Protective Service, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NTFC also accepts temporary duty assignments for local law-enforcement personnel.

NTFC's hosting of part-time and full-time personnel and coordination of the FLO Network extends NTFC's value and ability to serve the 16 counties in the NCTCOG Region.

Capability Gaps

Describe the capability gaps which will be addressed by the project. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific page references to the regional or statewide State Preparedness Report (SPR).

The NTFC's biggest capability gap is the lack of staffing support 24 hour operation. Page 44-46 in the SPR identifies 24/7 fusion center operations as a capability gap. The Research Specialist will serve the nation's 11th ranked urban area with a population – over 7.7 million people and 150 jurisdictions. As a result, this project is aimed at maintaining analysts' within the fusion center, not extending their hours of operation.

Impact Statement

Describe the project objectives and how this project will maintain capabilities or reduce capability gaps.

The project will be effective in helping to sustain the NTFC's analytical ability and capacity to fulfill fusion centers analysis functions. It will also be effective in helping to enhance information and intelligence sharing and cooperation in regards to CI/KR and special event activities. Financial support of a Research

Specialist will allow the NTFC to strengthen information analysis, product development and dissemination.

Homeland Security Priority Action

Identify the Texas Homeland Security Priority Action most closely aligned with this project. Each Priority Action is linked with an *Objective from the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan (HSSP)*. List the Priority Action by number and text (e.g. *1.2.3 Expand and enhance the network of human sources that can provide detailed and relevant information on known or suspected terrorist and criminal enterprises.*)

Priority Action-2.1.2-Collect and securely maintain data to identify, characterize, and prioritize critical infrastructure in Texas through coordination with federal, state, local, and private sector partners.

Goal 2- Reduce the state's vulnerability to terrorist and criminal attacks and natural and technological disasters.

Objective-2.1 Enhance the security and resiliency of Texas critical infrastructure systems, networks, facilities, and assets, with particular emphasis on the lifeline sectors of communications, energy, transportation, and water.

Target Group

Identify the target group and population expected to benefit from this project.

The project directly benefits the North Texas Fusion Center. However, all FLO Network partners and citizens in counties benefit from the project through dissemination of intelligence bulletins.

Long-Term Approach

Describe how the applicant agency will sustain the capabilities supported by this project without additional federal or state funds. If sustainment is dependent upon federal or state grants, describe the ongoing need for future grants, as applicable.

The NTFC relies on Homeland Security Grant funds to continue to pay for the Analysts salary as well as their training, equipment, and other needs. Without the grant funds, the fusion center would not exist to the extent that it is today.

Activities:

Urban Area Impact

Goal 5 – Enhance Intelligence and Information sharing, gathering, and analysis.

Objective 5.1 – Expand and enhance regional intelligence capability and collaboration in accordance with DHS/DOJ Baseline Capabilities for State and Major UA Fusion Centers.

Priority Action 5.1.4 – Enhance operations managing emergency and special events as described in the Texas Homeland Security Regional Response Plan with specific focus on terrorism/crime nexus: intelligence, analysis, operations, investigations, and resource management.

Describe Activity

Pay for a Research Analyst salary to assist in collection and dissemination and CI/KR events.

Milestones for the DVE Grant:

Milestone	Completion Date
Description: NTFC Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) Analyst will attend at least two training events to enhance their analytic tradecraft capabilities related to CI/KR.	04-15-2022
Description: Facilitate a minimum of four training sessions for area law enforcement.	05-31-2022
Description: Conduct a minimum of one training seminar for Fusion Liaison Officers (FLO) in an effort to increase the FLO network and CI/KR awareness.	03-01-2022
Description: NTFC CI/KR Analyst will establish a liaison network of public and private sector experts in CI/KR; Analyst will leverage this network to increase analytic collaboration and information sharing among law enforcement partners, facility/personnel security providers, and members of the general public who seek to report CI/KR related information and threats.	07-31-2022
Description: NTFC CI/KR Analyst will work with other NTFC personnel to develop serialized products related to trends in CI/KR and publish information valuable to the network.	02-28-2022