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

The North Texas Fusion Center (NTFC) is essential to our Region. It is analysis driven. The fusion process proactively seeks to identify and prevent threats posed by terrorists or criminal enterprises to include threats posed by domestic violent extremists (DVEs). Prevention is essential in the intelligence process. This project will fund tools and resources to support data mining activities, reporting, and monitoring specifically associated with combating threats posed by DVEs. This will allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen information analysis, diversify product development, and optimize the FLO network.

This project will fund software, hardware and training programs to enable the fusion center to perform research, data mining activities, monitoring, analysis, and suspicious activity reporting. This project supports several performance measures identified in the DHS annual fusion center assessment as well as accounting for transnational criminal organizations that was recently added to the calculations for our Urban Area risk profile. Specifically, this project will require: Ten (10) laptops and associated hardware at an estimated cost of $37,626 and DVE-specific training (travel costs etc.) at an estimated cost of $7,500.

This DVE project will support early identification and possible mitigation of a variety of local and regional threats which include but are not limited to: (1) Right/Left wing political extremism; (2) Ideological and race-based extremism; and (3) Isolated lone-wolf threats.

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's project will target the threats posed by a variety of DVEs. NTFC will also continue to enhance information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies by sustaining analytic capability and activities. The project will assist in identifying potential threats posed by DVEs 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 p. 6-8), specifically the threat posed by DVEs.

In addition, this project will support mitigating counterterrorism and homeland security threats (DHS Strategic Plan, pages 8-15) and intends to support multiple Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan Objectives (see Homeland Security Priority Action section below).

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.

The NTFC operates from 0600 to 1900 hours, Monday through Friday, and takes an all-crime, all-hazards approach to mitigate threats or hazards to the region. The NTFC coordinates 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 over 500 Fusion Liaison Officers across multiple sectors including law enforcement and fire personnel, emergency management, public health, critical infrastructure, and federal/military partners. This network optimizes the 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 FLO partners, the NTFC also provides valuable training and resources to further bolster relationships and collaboration in the community.

The 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), Texas Department of Family & Protective Service, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The NTFC also accepts temporary duty assignments for local law-enforcement personnel.

The NTFC's hosting of part-time and full-time personnel and coordination of the FLO Network extends its value and ability to serve the counties in the AOR.

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).

With respect to this project, the NTFC's biggest capability gap would be the absence of funding for new software, necessary equipment, and issue-specific DVE training. This project will improve our service to the nation's 11th ranked urban area with a population over 7.5 million people and 150 jurisdictions.

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 a fusion center's basic functions. Our specific intent is to fund software, hardware and training programs that enable us to perform research, data mining activities, monitoring, analysis, and suspicious activity reporting in order to strengthen information analysis, diversify product development, and optimize the FLO network.

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.*)

1.1.3 Enhance the state's capacity to identify, assess, monitor and disrupt potential domestic terrorism and other mass casualty threats, particularly those that could impact special events, soft targets, and crowded places.

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.

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 Federal Grant funds to continue to pay for training, equipment, and other needs. Without the grant funds, the NTFC would struggle to effectively identify and mitigate emerging online threats appearing on a variety of novel applications and websites.

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

The North Texas Fusion Center is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated fusion center that has been operational since February 2006, and provides tactical intelligence analysis to regional, state, and federal partners. They facilitate the preparation/distribution of bulletins, requests for information (RFI), and other analytical projects for regional stakeholders. The analysts disseminate counterterrorism related products, conduct national threat coordination calls, and provide resources and intelligence (to include CI/KR related information) to Federal, State, and Local agencies.