

FY23 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Form

2023 UASI/Domestic Violent Extremism-Collin County-Regional Fusion Center Analysts (LE)

Profile

Jurisdiction/Agency Name: Collin County

Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Collin County Sheriff's Office

Agency Address: 4300 Community Ave.

City/State/Zip: McKinney, TX 75071

Start Date: 9/01/2023

End Date: 8/30/2024

Plan Year: 2023

Regional Councils of Government (COGS): NCTCOG

Headquarters County: Collin

Geographic Impact of Project: Regional

Counties within the Project's Impact Area: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Montague, Navarro, Rockwall, Wise

Grant Officials

Authorized Official Email Address: chill@co.collin.tx.us

Financial Officer Email Address: iriggs@co.collin.tx.us

Project Director Email Address: jbenson-caponera@co.collin.tx.us

Grant Writer Email Address: pskipper@co.collin.tx.us

Narrative

Responses to the next three sections should be consistent with the region's (1) *Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)*; (2) *State Preparedness Report*; and (3) *Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan*.

Project Title: 2023 UASI/Domestic Violent Extremism-Collin County-Regional Fusion Center Analysts (LE)

Executive Summary:

Sort (2-3 sentences) summary of what the project will fund, who will be using/benefiting from the project, what capability gap it fills and how it fills that gap.

The North Texas Fusion Center (NTFC) conducts analysis and facilitates information sharing while assisting law enforcement and homeland security partners in preventing, protecting against, and responding to criminal or terrorist activity (to include domestic violent extremists). The fusion process, which is analysis driven and based on the intelligence cycle, proactively seeks to identify threats and stop them before they occur.

Project Description

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 threats posed by terrorists (to include domestic violent extremists) or criminal enterprises and stops them before they occur. Prevention is essential in the intelligence process. This project will partially fund two Intelligence Research Analysts to perform data mining activities, reporting, and monitoring specifically associated with Combating Domestic Violent Extremism. Remaining salary amounts for these analysts will be provided from a fusion center project under the Intelligence and Information Sharing Investment Justification (IJ). 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.

Problem Statement

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

The NTFC project will target the Combating Domestic Violent Extremism national priority by continuing to enhance information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies through refined analytic capabilities and activities. These analysts will assist in providing threat and vulnerability assessments for special events within their coverage area and monitor social media and other information outlets prior to, during and following events to prevent domestic violent extremists from coordinating an attack and to protect the public.

During special events the analysts' priorities will include: identifying potential DVE threats, mitigating potential violence from DVEs, addressing public safety issues posed by DVEs, and supporting the protection of government facilities, critical infrastructure, and citizens against the threats posed by DVEs.

This project supports the THIRA by providing Intelligence and Information Sharing for a Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) p. 14.

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 – Friday, with two full-time research analysts whose salaries are paid using Homeland Security Grant funds. These analysts work under the Collin County Sheriff's Office supervision.

NTFC takes an all-crime, all-hazards approach to mitigating threats or hazards in 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 over 450 Fusion Liaison Officers (FLO) including members of law enforcement, private-sector partners, fire personnel, emergency-management professionals, military personnel, public health officers, and critical-infrastructure advisors. The network maintains two-way flows of information during members' operating hours and meets for specialized training twice a year. As part of its role, the NTFC provides training and resources to further bolster relationships and collaboration in the community.

The 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 counties in the DFWA UA.

Existing Capability Gaps

Describe the existing capability gap(s) which will be addressed by the project. For Federal Homeland Security grants, include specific 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 the research analysts; because without the Homeland Security Grant funds, the fusion center would not exist. Page 44-46 in the SPR identifies 24/7 fusion center operations as a capability gap. The two analysts serve the nation's 8th ranked urban area with a population – over 7.5 million people and 150 jurisdictions. The NTFC is unable to operate 24/7 due to funding that would be needed to support the additional analysts that would be required. As a result, this project is aimed at maintaining the analysts' capabilities, not extending their hours of operation.

Impact Statement

Describe the project goals/objectives and how this project will maintain capabilities or reduce capability gaps identified in the SPR and address the national priorities.

The project will be effective in helping to sustain the NTFC's analytical ability and capacity to fulfill a fusion center's basic functions. It will also be effective in helping to meet the UASl priorities of enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation pertaining to Combating Domestic Violent Extremism. Financial support of the two Intelligence Research Analysts will allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen: information analysis, product development and dissemination, efforts to combat domestic violent extremism, and support to the robust and growing FLO network through fusion liaison officer recruitment and training.

Homeland Security Priority Actions

Identify the State Homeland Security Priority Action.

Goal 1 - Prevent terrorist attacks and organized criminal activity in Texas.

Objective 1.1 Expand and enhance the statewide intelligence capability that reduces the threat of terrorism and criminal enterprises, with an emphasis on proactive intelligence.

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.

UASI Strategy Priority Actions

Identify the UASI Strategy Priority Action.

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.

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 also directly benefit from the project via their shared ability to leverage Fusion Center operations to enhance the security profile within their own jurisdictions.

Long-Term Approach

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

The NTFC relies on Homeland Security Grant funds to continue to pay for the analyst's salaries. Without the grant funds, the fusion center would not exist to the extent that it does today.

Project Activities

Investment Category: Information and Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation

Implementation Strategy: Combating Domestic Violent Extremism

Provide a brief description of how the project activity is performed.

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. The Fusion Center facilitates 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, resources, and DVE related information to Federal, State, and Local agencies.

Capabilities

DHS Project Type: Expand and enhance regional intelligence capability and collaboration in accordance with DHS/DOJ Baseline Capabilities for State and Major UA Fusion Centers.

Identify if this investment focuses on building new capabilities or sustaining existing capabilities.

Existing capabilities (Sustain)

Are the assets or activities deployable or shareable?

Shareable

Will this investment require new construction or renovation, retrofitting, or modification of existing structures?

No

Will these funds support a project that was previously funded with HSGP funding?

Yes

Project Management, Milestones and Measures

Project Management Step Involved: Execute

Milestones:

List 3 to 5 milestones of this project, and then list the intended completion date for each milestone. Milestones should occur throughout the project.

Milestone	Completion Date
Facilitate a minimum of four training sessions for detention officers assigned to the Detention intelligence Unit to enhance their analytic trade/capabilities to what is DVE/ Fusion Center.	01/01/2023
Conduct a minimum of one training seminars for Fusion Liaison Officers (FLO) in an effort to increase the FLO network and DVE awareness.	03/30/2023
NTFC Research Analysts will establish a liaison network of public and private sector experts in DVE and Radicalization; Analysts 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 DVE-related threats.	06/30/2023
NTFC Research Analysts will identify websites, develop open source internet tools, and utilize analytic tradecraft to discover the activities of known and suspected DVE groups in North Texas area; Analysts will publish informal bulletins or formal serialized products on valid threats related to these DVE groups as they arise.	09/30/2023

Measures

Output Measures	Target Level
Number of exercises conducted.	1
Number of grant funded intelligence analyst positions.	2
Number of individuals participating in exercises.	25
Number of intelligence and information sharing systems created, maintained or enhanced.	2
Number of intelligence products created.	25
Number of people trained.	150
Number of planning/coordination meetings attended.	5
Number of planning/coordination meetings conducted (including whole community as appropriate).	6
Number of plans developed or updated.	0
Number of risk assessments conducted.	0
Number of trainings conducted.	6

Outcome Measures	Target Level
Number of agencies actively participating in the Intelligence and Information Sharing Program.	450
Number of intelligence products distributed/shared.	150
Number of stakeholders participating in planning/coordination meetings.	75

DHS I&A Fusion Center Performance Measures

Please select the DHS I&A performance measure(s) this project funding will support. Below are the measures you have marked.

2020.1 Percentage of Federal Information Intelligence Reports (IIRs) originating from fusion center information that address a specific Intelligence Community need.

2020.2 Percentage of evaluation Federal IIRs originating from fusion center information that the Intelligence Community otherwise used in performing its mission (e.g., contained first-time reporting; corroborated existing information; addressed a critical intelligence gaps; or helped define an issue or target).

2020.3 Percentage of fusion center distributable analytic products that address a specific Intelligence Community need.

2020.4 Number of Suspicious Reports (SAR) vetted and submitted by fusion centers that result in the initiation or enhancement an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

2020.5 Number of SAR vetted and submitted by fusion centers that involve an individual on the TSC Watchlist.

2020.6 Percentage of Requests for Information (RFIs) from the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) for which fusion centers provided information for a TSC case file.

2020.7 Percentage of I&A Watchlist nominations that were initiated or updated existing case files based on information provided by fusion centers.

2020.8 Number of distributable analytic products co-authored by one or more fusion centers and/or Federal agencies.

2020.9 Percentage of fusion center distributable analytic products that address Homeland Security topics.

2020.10 Percentage of fusion center distributable analytic products that address state/local customer information needs.

2020.11 Percentage of key customers reporting that they are satisfied with fusion center products and services.

2020.12 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services are relevant.

2020.13 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services are timely for mission needs.

2020.14 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services influenced their decision making related to threat response activities within their AOR.

2020.15 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services resulted in increased situational awareness of threats within their AOR.

2020.16 Number of tips and leads vetted by the fusion center.

2020.17 Number of tips and leads vetted by the fusion center that were provided to other F/SLTT agencies for follow up action.

2020.18 Number of responses to RFIs from all sources.

2020.19 Number of situational awareness products developed and disseminated by fusion centers.

2020.20 Number of case support and/or tactical products developed and disseminated by fusion centers.

2020.21 Percentage of Federally designated special events in which fusion centers played a direct role.

2020.22 Percentage of Federally declared disasters in which fusion centers played a direct role.

2020.23 Number of public safety incidents in which fusion centers played a direct role.