FY23 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Form

2023 UASI-Collin County-Regional Fusion Center Analysis (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

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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-Collin County-Regional Fusion Center Analysis (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. The fusion process, which is analysis driven and based on the intelligence cycle, proactively seeks to identify threats and stop them before they occur. The NTFC approaches this process from an all crimes/all hazards perspective and strives to support all of the citizens and partner agencies in the area, regardless of their geographic footprint. This effort is largely driven by the collaboration between the two NTFC analysts who collectively provide analytical support to federal, state, local, tribal and territorial organizations and their citizens. Financial support for two Intelligence Research Analysts will allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen information analysis, product development and dissemination and further expand the FLO network through recruitment and intelligence sharing.

Project Description

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

The FY23 NTFC UASI funds will support partial staff salaries for two Intelligence Research Analysts. These positions effectively support the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) mission to enhance information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies. This includes but is not limited to the protections of soft targets/crowded places, identifying and mitigating criminal and terrorist activity, and addressing emerging threats. The Intelligence Research Analyst positions are critical in ensuring the NTFC's ability to meet performance measures identified in DHS's annual fusion-center assessment. These include: collecting, analyzing and sharing intelligence; supporting LE investigations; assessing risks to special events and soft targets; evaluating activities of known or Suspect terrorists and/or transnational-criminals; managing a Fusion Center Liaison Officer (FLO) network of 450-plus representatives from all levels of LE, emergency management, public health, military personnel, critical infrastructure, and the private sector; and participating in the multiple information Sharing sharing working groups.

The NTFC is a recognized and active member of a large (80-plus) network of fusion centers throughout the country. With over 13 counties and over six million citizens in the region, the NTFC plays a crucial role in keeping the citizens of this urban area (UA) safe.

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's project will chiefly target the UASI priority of enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies (by sustaining analytic capability and activity)- and, to a lesser extent, the second and third priorities related to soft targets/crowded spaces (by sustaining special-event risk and facility-risk assessments) and emergent threats (by sustaining detention-intelligence operations regarding transnational crime).

This project will ensure the NTFC continues to: The NTFC provides regular assistance with multiple hazards and issues identified in the DFW THIRA, multiple examples of which are provided below:

   (1) June 2022: Due to many reports regarding the potential for ongoing violence throughout June, NTFC provided a separate Situational Awareness Bulletin on WRMVEs' potential to target Pride and Pro-Choice events. This product was highlighted in FEMA's National Watch Center Threat Awareness Report as a Priority Information Requirement (PIR) Level One. In addition to monitoring multiple events in the area, the NTFC provided EOC and real time OSINT and monitoring support to the Princeton Pride event on 26 June 2022.

   (2) June 2022: From mid-late June 2022, the NTFC provided open source intelligence and maintained the EOC in the lead up to and following the SCOTUS ruling pertaining to Roe v. Wade. The NTFC, in collaboration with Dallas and Fort Worth Fusion Centers also initiated and provided continued support to a HSIN Connect room with multiple regional LES partners to monitor associated events, rallies, and protests in the region. NTFC published a Situational Awareness Bulletin that was shared with regional partners.

   (3) July 2022: In coordination with Dallas Fusion Center(DFC)/Dallas Police Department (DPD) and the Fort Worth Intelligence Exchange (INTEX), the NTFC published a Joint Special Event Threat Assessment (JSETA) on July 4th events in our region. This was the first tri-sealed JSETA with DFC and INTEX to date and DHS provided threat assessment information in support of the JSETA. The HSIN connect room that was initiated following the SCOTUS ruling was maintained to cover issues associated with that decision as well as the multiple Independence Day events throughout our area, beginning 25 June through 4 July 2022.

   (4) August 2022: The NTFC began operating 24/7 on 10 August to support school safety. NTFC developed a School Safety Ops plan and conducted outreach to all ISDs (PDs, SROs, etc) in Collin County to ensure their awareness of this support and to acquire up-to-date contact information. A version of the Ops Plan was shared with respective members of law enforcement responsible for ISD security in our county. Since this initiative began, multiple outlying ISDs have contacted NTFC and expressed an interest in participating in this endeavor and receiving communications from NTFC. As such, we intend to host a FLO Training course in October catered to School Safety and interested parties in our region.

   (5) September 2022: At 0830, NTFC became aware of a potential threat to unspecified schools in our region via Prosper ISD PD who had received the information from a College Station officer. Within minutes, in part due to an LE group chat where the suspect was mentioned, multiple local ISD PDs and PDs in the area were made aware of the possible threat. NTFC was able to quickly mobilize and sent an SAB and teletype informing local partners that the threat was being worked and had yet to be validated. In the end, Fannin County S.O. opted to do a knock and talk at the individual's residence and he was voluntary taken for a mental health evaluation. This incident was not only evidence of NTFC's ability to act quickly in a potential crisis situation but also a credit to our partners' growing willingness to share information early and often.

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   (7) October/November 2022: In coordination with CCSO, NTFC developed an Election Operations Guide to prepare stakeholders for the upcoming midterms. NTFC also initiated collaboration with Fort Worth Intelligence

Exchange and Dallas Fusion Center to open and maintain a HSIN connect room where partners will share information and intelligence as necessary. This room was operational starting 24 October and will be available through the close of the elections. Furthermore, NTFC published two Situational Awareness Bulletins in support of Election Security.

(8) December 2022: Frisco Police Department (PD) contacted NTFC and requested support in identifying the suspects involved in a potential series of home invasions. As of 29 December 2022, there have been three recent recorded incidents (Cedar Hill, Frisco, and Little Elm) involving 4-6 individuals who targeted single family homes where residents were either present or returning home. The robberies/home invasions appear to have been pre-planned and include very similar M.O.s (zip ties, pistols, separation of family members, taunting/torturing). Due to the circumstances, this information was shared with DHS/ICE who believes the group may be part of South American Theft ring. NTFC will continue to assist Frisco PD (and other partners) in an attempt to identify the suspects; to include sharing the information via TrapWire where similar crime trends may be identified.

The NTFC will continue to compile, analyze, and share information and support LE and first responders; meet operational standards (including a privacy policy (Gov't code, 421.085)); share information with TXSARN; contribute to the activities of the School Safety Working Group; participate in the TxFCPC, assist in achieving the objectives of the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan (2021-2025); to cooperate with the Texas Fusion Center (e.g., helping to comply with parts of the Governor's Executive Order GA-07 (Sept. 5, 2017)); support the maturation of the Information Sharing Environment; and to address emerging threats (transnational crime). The NTFC project directly aligns with sections 2 (c) (1) (3) and (4), 2(c)(ii), and (iv) of the OOG's Funding Announcement-LETPA (Eligible Activities & Cost). This project will help maintain NTFC's ability to perform basic functions discussed in DHS's fusion-center assessment (e.g., responding to requests for information or services from LE and other officials and private partners, vetting and submitting SARs, submitting qualifying SARs to eGuardian, and circulating BOLOs and situational-awareness bulletins) and to continue to compile, analyze, and disseminate terrorist, threat-to--life, and criminal information to support efforts to prevent terrorist and other threatening activity (i.e., Fusion Center Guidelines, no. 14; Baseline Capabilities (process capabilities)). The project is consistent with the fusion-center descriptions and Goal 1-(Prevention)-and Goal 4-(Response)-in the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and the same mission areas in the National Preparedness Goal (2d ed. 2015).

The THIRA also identifies fusion-center roles in three areas of target capabilities: (1) Forensics and Attribution: to assist the JTTF in identifying personnel to support the acquisition, analysis, and sharing of information associated with the collection, examination, and analysis of evidence after a CCTA, as well as the identification of perpetrators; (2) Intelligence and Information Sharing: to assist the JTTF in periodically reviewing the UA's ability to effectively execute the intelligence cycle; and (3) Interdiction and Disruption: to assist the JTTF in notifying personnel assigned to support interdiction and disruption activities in light of a threat or identified suspects or contraband.

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's mission is to protect the citizens of North Texas by creating a synergistic ISE among governmental and corporate stakeholders. The NTFC takes an all-crime, all-hazards approach to try to mitigate threats or hazards to the region, while protecting all residents' rights.

The NTFC operates from 0600 to 1900 hours, Monday – Friday, with two full-time research analysts that perform key functions referenced here. The analysts also respond to critical events and emerging/potential threats on an as-needed basis outside of normal work hours.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (TX DPS) and Texas Fusion Center (TXFC) support the NTFC by having access to all SARs submitted via iWatchTexas.org. This ensures that all threat reporting delivered through iWatchTexas.org during non-operating hours will be addressed. However, TX DPS and TXFC do not have access to SARs submitted to NTFC through other channels (e.g., email, telephone, NTFC website).

In addition, the NTFC supports:

Detention Intelligence Unit: The DIU collects detention intelligence from the county jail (1298 beds), vets and checks information against other information available to NTFC, and submits criminal intelligence information (28 C.F.R. 23.3(b)(3)) to the state's gang-related criminal-information database, TXGANG. Because submissions meet the submission criteria (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 67.054), these reports represent valuable, high quality content. In 2022, the analyst submitted 405 reports to TXGANG. Because a substantial percentage of this work relates to cartels or cartel-related gangs, it directly addresses the transnational organized crime" priority identified by DHS.

North Texas Criminal Interdiction Unit: The NTFC routinely supports the NTXCIU – a mutual-aid effort – that works highway interdiction in eight counties in Northeast Texas (all but two in DFWA UA). The NTXCIU has arrested over a dozen of traffickers in 2022, intercepted multiple loads of human cargo, and recovered nearly 10 stolen vehicles. The NTXCIU also seized 630 kilograms of illegal drugs valued at over 16 million dollars (marijuana, methamphetamines, heroin, cocaine, fentanyl and THC extract), and over 140 thousand dollars in U.S. currency. The Child Exploitation Unit (part of the NTXCIU) investigated 1392 cases with over 168 arrests. Although distinct from the NTFC, the NTXCIU is on the local forefront of fighting transnational crime.

The NTFC maintains a robust network over 450 Fusion Liaison Officers including members of law enforcement, private-sector partners, fire personnel, emergency management professionals, military personnel, public health officers, and 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.

Counterterrorism and Critical Infrastructure Protection Program: The CT/CIP program addresses concerns related to foreign terrorist organizations, homegrown violent extremism, and domestic violent extremism, including risks to soft targets or crowded places throughout North Texas. CT/CIP efforts include evaluating the presence and activity of KSTs and TOC members operating in the area; collecting, analyzing, and sharing information and intelligence linked to terrorist organizations; and providing FBI with actionable threat reporting via eGuardian. The CT/CIP participates in the planning and operation of region-wide terrorism-related exercises. This NTFC program also provides Special Event Threat Assessments, Facility Security Assessments (SETAs) and Facility Security Assessments (FSAs). SETAs assess potential terrorism, criminal, and security threats to special events (concerts, bike and road races, parades, rallies, and similar soft targets) in NTFC's AOR. FSAs reports recommend physical-security improvements (reinforced locks, security gates, lighting, surveillance cameras, blast-resistant windows, flow-of-traffic recommendations, and employee-awareness training) upon a facility's request. NTFC has produced over 100 SETA and FSA reports since 2017. The NTFC provides significant intelligence and analytic support to counter the growing threat of Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs) in the North Texas area. The NTFC provided direct operational support for dozens of demonstrations and protests across the greater Dallas-Fort Worth region during 2022 including right-wing protests, left-wing protests, and the social justice movement. The NTFC also provided operational support for the 2022 Election, including one formal analysis product and one-facility security review addressing threats from right-wing and left-wing extremist groups upset with the election results. The NTFC maintains a particular focus on potential threats from members of Antifa, Atomwaffen Division, Boogaloo Boys, Elm Fork John Brown Gun Club, Oath Keepers, Neo-Nazis, Patriot Front, Proud Boys, Q-Anon, the Three Percenter militia movement, and other organized militias or extremist groups active in this area. The NTFC monitors the evolving DVE threats in the area

through persistent social media surveillance on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and many others. These efforts directly support DHS's priority of enhancing the protection of soft targets and crowded places.

Collaborative Effort: The NTFC houses part-time and full-time personnel detailed over 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, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 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 NTFC's value and ability to serve the counties in the DFWA UA and ensures that the center has the essential property of being a collaborative effort (e.g., 6 U.S.C. 123h(j)(1); Gov't Code, 421.001(2-a)).

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).*

The NTFC has only two analysts to serve in one of 3 fusion centers located in the DFWA urban area, which is the nation's 8th most populous UA with over 7.5 million people and 150 jurisdictions. Within the Texas Counties by population, Collin County is ranked 6th with over 1 million people. The NTFC is unable to operate 24/7. The NTFC's FY23 project is aimed at maintaining the analysts' capabilities, not extending their hours of operation. UASI funds will be used to fund the NTFC analysts' partial salaries.

Although the NTFC operates during hours comparable to many other small fusion centers (1 -15 staff) (2017 National Network of Fusion Centers, Final Report, at p.9), the NTFC is unable to operate 24/7 as encouraged by DHS I&A Under Secretary David J. Glawe's Aug. 21, 2019 letter to fusion-center partners and order no. 7 in Governor Abbot's Executive Order GA-07 (Sept. 5, 2019).

This project addresses fusion center personnel capability gaps identified in the SPR under Intelligence and Information Sharing section p 44-46. NTFC is currently planning to sustain their current staffing levels but would also eventually like to expand to 24/7 coverage.

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 UASI priorities of enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies and, to a lesser extent, of enhancing the protection of soft targets and crowded place and monitoring the emerging threat of transnational crime. Financial support for two Intelligence Research Analysts 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.

Homeland Security Priority Actions

Identify the State Homeland Security Priority Action.

1.1.1 Enhance intelligence coordination and collaboration across the state's network of intelligence nodes and with federal partner organizations, to include development of common processes and standard for recognized fusion centers.

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 enterprises with an emphasis on proactive intelligence. Lead for reporting: Texas Department of Public Safety.

UASI Strategy Priority Actions

Identify the UASI Strategy Priority Action. Urban Area Impact.

D/FW/A UASI Goal 5 – Enhance Intelligence and Information sharing, gathering, and analysis.

D/FW/A UASI 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.

D/FW/A UASI 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 the DFWA UA 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.

Collin County funds the Operations Captain, Operations Assistant Chief, and Administrative Assistant who supervise and support the NTFC. Consistent with 6 U.S.C. § 607(a)(2)(F), (G), the PRICE Act, Pub. L. No. 110-412 (2008), and FEMA's FY21 NOFO (HSGP), UASI funds should continue to finance the compensation of the fusion center's research analysts.

Project Activities

Investment Category: Information and Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation

Implementation Strategy

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

Collect, analyze, and share information and intelligence to federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners through product development, requests for information, suspicious activity reporting, outreach, training, and planning.

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 officers assigned to the Detention intelligence Unit.	12/01/2022
Participate in a minimum of two regional-wide intelligence meetings to discuss recent terrorism trends in NTFC's AOR and provide feedback for active terrorism investigations.	03/31/2023
Conduct a minimum of one training seminars for Fusion Liaison Officers (FLO) in an effort to increase the FLO network.	06/30/2023
Participate in one tabletop and/or practical exercises with NTFC stakeholders to simulated terrorism events.	09/30/2023

Measures

Output Measures	Target Level
Number of exercises conducted.	1
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.	15
Number of trainings conducted.	6

Outcome Measures	Target Level
Number of agencies actively participating in the Intelligence and Information Sharing Program.	450
Number of agencies served by the interoperable communication system.	2
Number of intelligence products distributed/shared.	175
Percent (%) of population that can be reached by emergency public information technologies.	0

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.