

FY23 Urban Area Elections Security Initiative Grant Form
2023 UASI/Elections Security Grant-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

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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/Elections Security Grant-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.

Project Description

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

This project seeks to develop and implement annual standards for review of election-related issues across Collin County and the North Texas Fusion Center (NTFC) area of responsibility (AOR). Activities conducted under this project will include but not be limited to: 1) Coordinating with Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) patrol and NTFC partners to establish virtual and real-time operations to monitor for potential threats leading up to and during election seasons - from the area school board and city council elections in May through State/Federal elections in November; 2) Developing election-specific internal communication system (ICS) programs leveraging tools such as Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Connect, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation, external tool suites, and on-site incident command to ensure consistent communications and rapid response in the event of any elections-based issued or emergencies; 3) Conducting open source monitoring for potential threats to elections, facilities, operations, personnel and potential voters including long-term daily monitoring of social media channels and external tips lines to proactively address short, medium, long-term and emerging threats in the political arena; 4) Coordinating with CCSO patrol to facilitate deliver of full ballot boxes from polling locations to elections offices; 5) Developing an annual profile of all relevant area Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE) groups or individuals (left or right wing) and the likelihood that any such group would present threats to the elections; 6) Developing and maintaining work and shift schedules during elections seasons for the NTFC, CCSO patrol, CCSO Criminal Intelligence Division (CID), and all other county entities that collaborate on elections security.

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.

There has been a great deal of concern in recent years regarding elections security and the potential impact of violence or threat of violence on our elections. However, there is currently no established UASI project specifically dedicated to the protection of area elections beyond those procedures already in place with area authorities (law enforcement, election commission, etc.). As such, response to elections security issues is largely localized and cannot be guaranteed to include significant analytic tradecraft support. This project will support the **2022 THIRA Core Capability of Intelligence and Information Sharing** by directing specific communication and analytic resources toward any potential elections threats.

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 is currently positioned to: 1) Coordinate with Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) patrol and NTFC partners to establish virtual and real-time operations to monitor for potential threats leading up to and during election seasons - from the area school board and city council elections in May through State/Federal elections in November; 2) Develop election-specific internal communication system (ICS) programs leveraging tools such as Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Connect, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation, external tool suites, and on-site incident command to ensure consistent communications and rapid response in the event of any elections-based issued or emergencies; 3) Conduct open source monitoring for potential threats to elections, facilities, operations, personnel and potential voters including long-term daily monitoring of social media channels and external tips lines to proactively address short, medium, long-term and emerging threats in the political arena; 4) Coordinate with CCSO patrol to facilitate deliver of full ballot boxes from polling locations to elections office(s); 5) Develop an annual profile of all relevant area Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE) groups or individuals (left or right wing) and the likelihood that any such group would present threats to the elections; 6) Develop and maintain work and shift schedules during elections seasons for the NTFC, CCSO patrol, CCSO Criminal Intelligence Division (CID), and all other county entities that collaborate on election security. With this project, the NTFC will expand and enhance those same capabilities to provide robust intelligence and information sharing leading up to and throughout the entire elections cycle (May to November).

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 is not currently capable of supporting 24/7 operations due to extraordinarily limited staffing; as a result, NTFC staff are regularly occupied with a large variety of competing requirements as necessitated by our position as a regional Fusion Center. To successfully execute this project, existing NTFC staff will be required to leverage relationships with mission partners as a force multiplier for the purpose of augmenting our existing analytic capabilities.

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.

This project will allow the NTFC to sharpen our focus on short and long-term issues related to elections security. It will also be effective in helping to meet the UASI priorities of enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation pertaining to elections security. Ongoing financial support of the two Intelligence Research Analysts will allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen information analysis, product development/dissemination, and support efforts to protect regional elections.

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

1.1.1 Forecast emerging threats to the homeland and provide early warning

1.1.3 Disseminate intelligence and threat information for domestic and international partners to support continuous threat awareness and inform appropriate threat mitigation and response

1.3.4 Improve security of soft targets and crowded places against the spectrum of nefarious actors who might attempt to target or attack such locations

3.2.1 Identify gaps and prioritize solutions for current national risk management efforts

3.2.3 Collect and share threat indicators and other cybersecurity and intelligence information.

Target Group

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

This project directly benefits the citizens of Collin County and the North Texas region, as well as law enforcement entities tasked with protection of elections operations and facilities.

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.

This project will allow the NTFC to develop a more robust medium and long-term approach to assisting law enforcement and election agencies with security, information sharing, and process improvements related to ballot collections, physical security, and tracking of potential threat vectors.

Project Activities

Investment Category: Information and Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation

Implementation Strategy:

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?

No

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 completion and distribution of a Collin County 2024 Election Information Guide to track Fusion Center Intelligence and Information Sharing activities related to Federal, State and local elections to be held in Collin County during November of 2024	09/30/2024
Conduct a minimum of one online or in-person training session for all Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) program members to refine fusion-based reporting and information sharing procedures related to election threats, election-based Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE) activities, and social media or internet-mediated information that could compromise election security	09/30/2024
Identify and leverage a list of websites, social media pages, internet channels, and other open source sites or tools that can be used by Fusion Center Analysts to locate and identify threats to elections and DVE-mediated activities designed to threaten or call into question the integrity of local elections in Collin County during 2024	09/30/2024
Publish and distribute at least one formal serialized intelligence report dedicated specifically and entirely to election security for the benefit of all our mission partners and FLO members within the Fusion Center area of responsibility	09/30/2024

Measures

Output Measures	Target Level
Number of exercises conducted.	1
Number of grant funded intelligence analyst positions.	2
Number of individuals participating in exercises.	20
Number of intelligence and information sharing systems created, maintained or enhanced.	2
Number of intelligence products created.	1
Number of people trained.	50
Number of planning/coordination meetings attended.	3
Number of planning/coordination meetings conducted (including whole community as appropriate).	3
Number of plans developed or updated.	1
Number of risk assessments conducted.	1
Number of trainings conducted.	1

Outcome Measures	Target Level
Number of agencies actively participating in the Intelligence and Information Sharing Program.	250
Number of intelligence products distributed/shared.	25
Number of stakeholders participating in planning/coordination meetings.	50

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.