

## IISC Collin County Fusion Center Analyst CI/KR FY25

### **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 CI/KR Research Specialist will assist with providing proactive information regarding the need for a threat and/or vulnerability assessment regarding CI/KR issues and will 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.**

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

During notable events the CI/KR Research Specialist will assist in identifying potential threats posted by terrorist and/or criminal actors to 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 effect 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.**

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

The NTFC takes an all-crime, all-hazards approach to try 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 well over 550 Fusion Liaison Officers across multiple disciplines including military, law enforcement and fire services, private sector security, emergency management, public health, and critical infrastructure. This network maximizes the NTFC's ability to support two-way flows of information, thus increasing the quality and quantity of intelligence products originating from this AOR. In addition to sharing information and intelligence with its FLO partners, the NTFC also provides valuable training and resources to further bolster relationships and collaboration in the law enforcement community.

Collaborative Effort: 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), 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.

The NTFC's hosting of part-time and full-time personnel and coordination of the FLO Network extends the NTFC's value and our 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. Pages 44-46 in the SPR identify 24/7 fusion center operations as a capability gap. The CI/KR Research Specialist will serve the nation's 11th ranked urban area with a population of over 7.7 million people served by over 150 law enforcement jurisdictions. As a result, this project is aimed at maintaining analyst capabilities 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 core 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. While the FLO program has seen a 30% increase in membership since 2022, a dedicated CI/KR analyst would further support NTFC efforts to develop relationships within the critical infrastructure community. Specifically, the continuing presence of a dedicated CI/KR Research Specialist will allow the NTC to add dozens or even hundreds of new FLO partners, with a high concentration of new members coming from the Emergency management, Fire and Emergency Services, and Intelligence sectors. Such an increase in FLO participation will in turn lead to more robust intelligence sharing in advance of emerging threats, and more rapid law enforcement and emergency services response after critical incidents occur. Financial support of a CI/KR Research Specialist will also 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)*.**

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.

**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 that will continue to pay for the Analysts' salary. Without the grant funds, the NTFC would not exist to the extent that it is today.

**Milestones:**

Milestone	Completion Date
NTFC CI/KR Specialist will work with other NTFC personnel to develop serialized products related to trends in CI/KR and publish information valuable to the network.	12/30/2024
Conduct a minimum of one training seminar for Fusion Liaison Officers (FLO) in an effort to increase the FLO network and CI/KR awareness.	03/30/2025
NTFC CI/KR Specialist will continue to establish a liaison network of public and private sector experts in CI/KR; Specialist 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.	06/30/2025

**Intelligence Research Specialist/Analyst job duties (for Budget Explanation):**

The Intelligence Research Specialist will be a full-time analyst and will perform the following duties: • Conducts extensive database research. • Plans and conducts meetings, briefings, and other activities in support of the North Texas Fusion Center. • Provides information to support the development and dissemination of key intelligence information. • Evaluates intelligence reports and information related to terrorism and criminal activity. • Acquires, reviews, collates, and organizes source materials for use in briefings, reports, memos, and other analytical products. • Assists in the planning and development of group reports or other products. • Assesses future requirements for data based on trends and interpretations of events. • Identifies new sources of information for application to identified problem sets. • Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with North Texas Fusion Center staff, public safety officials, and the private industry sector. • Assists in the screening, evaluation, and consolidation of large volumes quantity of information from various sources. • Organizes material and supports the preparation for delivery of briefings and final products to decision makers. Working Conditions and Other Considerations: employment is contingent upon satisfactory completion and maintenance of a background investigation and the granting of a Secret clearance.