

# VERMONT HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT

2018

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## MISSION

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The Vermont Homeland Security Unit's mission is to support federal, state, local, and private sector efforts to prevent, protect against, and prepare for threats and acts of terrorism against the State and its visitors. Although counterterrorism is the main mission, many Homeland Security funded projects and initiatives support capabilities that can be applied to other threats and hazards as well.

## RECENT CHANGES

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- ❖ The Department of Public Safety underwent a reorganization resulting in Vermont Homeland Unit (VTHSU) uncoupling from the Division of Vermont Emergency Management (VEM).
  - ❖ As of July 1, 2017, the Vermont Homeland Security Unit operates under the oversight of the Vermont State Police.
  - ❖ The Unit is led by Major Rick Hopkins, the Homeland Security Advisor.
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## 2017 – 2020 HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT STRATEGIC PLAN

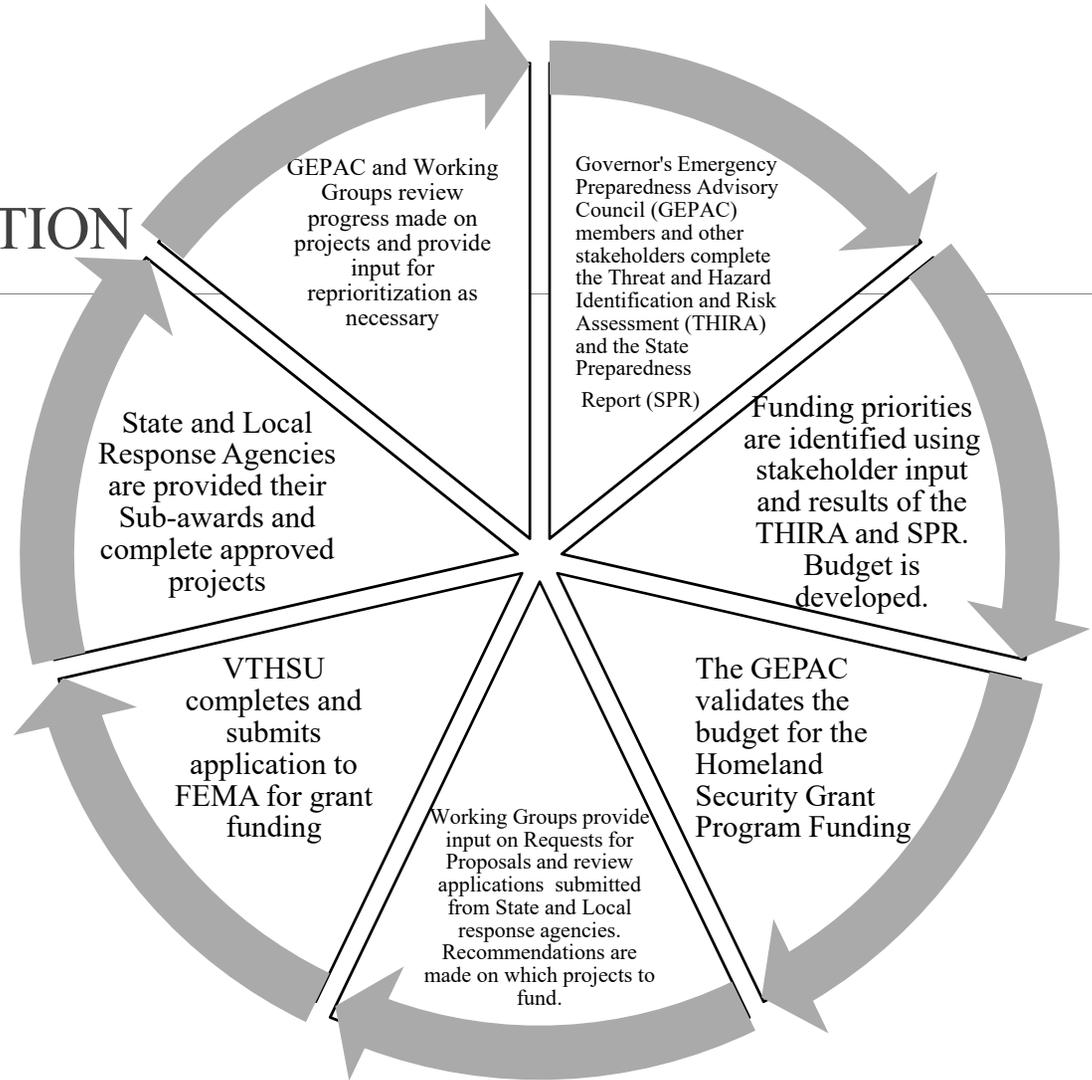
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The Vermont Homeland Security Unit developed a Strategic Plan for the period of 2017-2020

Major goals include:

- ❖ Scope programs and support them appropriately
- ❖ Develop a succession plan
- ❖ Develop sustainable relationships with partners and the public
- ❖ Create long-term financial program models

# PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING ALLOCATION



## NEW INITIATIVES, WHY?

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- ❖ The Homeland Security Unit is constantly adjusting efforts to address the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the state and the country.
- ❖ As a result of information from State, DPS, DHS, and local agencies, as well as the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment/ State Preparedness Report evaluation process, higher priorities have been identified and need support.
- ❖ The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) has funded legacy projects for many years and most are now well developed and mature.
- ❖ Legacy projects must become sustained through State and local funding if these programs are important to State and local Agencies and support from the HSGP should be eliminated.

# FUNDING PRIORITIES FFY18

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## Legacy Projects:

- Local Training and Exercise Program Support
- Vermont Intelligence Center (VIC) Staff, Training, and Travel

## Reduced Budget for Mature Projects:

- Interoperable Communications Equipment and Maintenance
- Special Operations Equipment

## New Projects:

- Critical Infrastructure (CI)
  - Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND)
  - Cybersecurity
  - Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS)
  - Homeland Security Program Planner
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## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (CI)

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- ❖ Funding will be used to find an experienced company to:
  - ❖ identify Vermont's CI;
  - ❖ develop and map one complete CI list;
  - ❖ conduct vulnerability assessments;
  - ❖ identify interdependencies.
- ❖ Hire a Homeland Security Program Planner to manage the CI program.

## PREVENTIVE RAD/NUC DETECTION (PRND)

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- ❖ Fund the purchase of equipment: Personal Radiation Detectors, Radioisotope Identification Devices (RIIDs), and backpacks.
- ❖ Develop Standard Operating Procedures for agencies that have not completed them.
- ❖ Conduct a Tabletop Exercise that includes a classified briefing regarding current state of movement of RN material through the US and beyond.
- ❖ Conduct evaluations around the state to identify current background radiation levels.

## CYBERSECURITY

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- ❖ Hire two (2) local police officers to be placed within the FBI's Cyber Task Force.
- ❖ Develop cybersecurity curriculum for schools.
- ❖ Develop and distribute cybersecurity quick guides to the general public and schools to promote cybersecurity at the most basic and local level.
- ❖ Host a Cybersecurity Conference.

## SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (sUAS)

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- ❖ Fund the purchase of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), also known as drones, at the State and local level to conduct:
  - ❖ Search & Rescue operations;
  - ❖ Crime and crash scene reconstruction;
  - ❖ Interdiction of criminal suspects.

Note: Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems are on the FEMA controlled equipment list and require additional justification and approval.

## TIMELINE

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Now:	Budget Drafting and Request for Proposal (RFP) Development (Local and State Awards)
January 23:	RFPs are Posted
February 28:	Applications Due from Local and State Agencies
March 19 – 30:	Application Review Period
April 2 – TBD:	Vermont FY18 Application Prepared for Submission to FEMA
Fall 2018:	Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Funding Accepted, Subawards are Made



## APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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- ❖ Completed Vermont Sub-award Application
- ❖ Three (3) quotes for equipment
- ❖ Completed HSGP Property Records List
- ❖ Department roster and/or vehicle roster
- ❖ Procurement policy
- ❖ Completed Maintenance and Sustainment Plan
- ❖ Certificate of Insurance
- ❖ A copy of Cash Advance Policy, if requesting a “Limited Cash Advance”

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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- ❖ Submission of Complete Application
- ❖ Compliance with the Vermont National Incident Management System Implementation Plan
- ❖ Current FCC License, if applicable
- ❖ Financial Risk Assessment Survey Complete
- ❖ The Applicant is not Listed on the Suspended and Debarred List
- ❖ The Applicant is not Listed on the Restricted Parties List
- ❖ Duns & Bradstreet (DUNS#) and System for Award Management (SAM) Active Registration
- ❖ Additional Requirements
- ❖ **Applications must be submitted prior to the published deadline.**

## EVALUATION CRITERIA (EXAMPLES)

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- ❖ The application identifies and quantifies the need for the proposed equipment (Problem Statement).
- ❖ The application identifies the acquisition proposed to improve the need identified (Proposed Countermeasure).
- ❖ The application identifies the link between the proposed acquisition and the identified need (Linkage).
- ❖ The application contains complete and realistic milestones.
- ❖ The application identifies the data to be collected to evaluate the success of the acquisition (Measurement/evaluation).
- ❖ The applicant has demonstrated a willingness to participate and cooperate in the State's effort to improve Capabilities.
- ❖ Reviewer is confident that the applicant's proposal will contribute to progress in the State's goals and objectives.
- ❖ Reviewer is confident that the applicant's proposal will increase the applicant's ability to better deliver services to constituents.
- ❖ Reviewer is confident in the applicant's ability to properly use, report, and document the funds to be subgranted.

## WORKING GROUP MEETING PREPARATION

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- ❖ Preparation takes approximately two weeks prior to Working Group meeting. Preparations include:
  - ❖ Compiling all applications by Working Group (i.e. Communications, Law Enforcement, Special Operations).
  - ❖ Finance and Program work together to develop a spreadsheet outlining the following:
    - ❖ List of applicants;
    - ❖ Amount requested;
    - ❖ Scope of work requested;
    - ❖ Confirmation that eligibility requirements have been met.
- ❖ If an agency has not met all of the eligibility requirements, a notification email is sent to the applicant, providing an opportunity for documentation to be provided to complete the application.
- ❖ Spreadsheet is sent to the Working Group to review prior to the meeting.

## WORKING GROUP MEETING

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- ❖ At the Working Group meeting, the following takes place:
  - ❖ Each member of the Working Group will review each application independently;
  - ❖ The Working Group will award a score of 1 to 5 for each applicable evaluation criteria as a group;
    - ❖ One (1) is not at all, three (3) is acceptable and five (5) is excellent.
  - ❖ The score will be taken for each application;
  - ❖ A score of 50 or below will result in NO award being issued;
  - ❖ The Working Group may choose to ask for additional documentation to review, as they see appropriate, to assist in the review and award process.

## APPLICATION APPROVAL

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- ❖ Financial Office will send an email providing the following:
  - ❖ Conditional approval pending receipt of federal funds;
  - ❖ Any additional information required to execute the Sub-Award:
    - ❖ Once the Federal Award has been received by the Department of Public Safety, an email will be sent providing the Sub-Award agreement for applicant signature.
    - ❖ Once the signed Sub-Award agreement is received from the Subrecipient by Public Safety, it is executed.
    - ❖ The executed Sub-Award agreement will be sent to Subrecipient with Financial & Programmatic Reporting requirements.
    - ❖ The project can be started once the executed agreement has been received by the Subrecipient.

## APPLICATION DENIAL

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- ❖ Financial Office will send an email detailing the reason for denial per the minutes of the Working Group meeting.
- ❖ In some cases, the Working Group may allow Applicants to submit additional information or supporting documentation for reconsiderations.

## PROGRAMMATIC MONITORING

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- ❖ This is not a Financial Audit.
- ❖ Programmatic Monitoring will be focused on open grant awards.
- ❖ Process starts with the VTHSU reaching out to a community to schedule the visit. The community will receive a letter to confirm the date/time of the visit, what to expect during the visit and the necessary documentation to be provided prior to the visit.
- ❖ The VTHSU will meet with the community, view the grant purchased items, and ask a series of questions regarding the grant process, NIMS, and training or exercising needs.
- ❖ The VTHSU will prepare a report outlining the visit, strengths and areas for improvement or concern within the community.
- ❖ The VTHSU will send the report to the community for comment and to develop a corrective action plan, if necessary. The VTHSU will follow the community until the corrective actions are complete.
- ❖ Once the requirements are complete, the monitoring visit will be closed.

## REVIEW OF CURRENT OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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- ❖ Communications Working Group – Lifeline Communications System Maintenance
- ❖ Law Enforcement Working Group – Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection Equipment
- ❖ Law Enforcement Working Group – Cybersecurity Investigators
- ❖ Law Enforcement Working Group – Vermont Intelligence Center Operations
- ❖ Operation Stonegarden – Details
- ❖ Operation Stonegarden - Equipment
- ❖ Special Operations Working Group – sUAS Equipment
- ❖ Special Operations Working Group – Search and Rescue Equipment and PPE
- ❖ Special Operations Working Group – USAR Program Funding
- ❖ Training & Exercise Working Group – Local Training & Exercise Program

## QUESTIONS?

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