



FEMA

**Grant Programs Directorate Information Bulletin
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MEMORANDUM FOR: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All Urban Areas Security Initiative Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors
All State Emergency Management Agency Directors

FROM: Christopher P. Logan 
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SUBJECT: Guidance for Use of Operation Stonegarden Funds for Small
Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Certain Costs Related to
Transportation and Medical Care

I. Purpose

This Information Bulletin (IB) provides updated allowability guidance for Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) under the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for certain costs related to transportation, medical care, medical emergency countermeasures, and unmanned aircraft systems. This IB supplements existing allowability language contained in the applicable HSGP Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs).

II. Applicability

This IB applies to recipients and subrecipients under all currently open and future OPSG awards. The United States Border Patrol (USBP) has identified several transportation and medical-related costs routinely incurred by OPSG recipients and subrecipients while transporting subjects interdicted while carrying out allowable OPSG-funded activities or operations. FEMA has reviewed these types of costs and determined that eligible non-Federal entities may use OPSG funding for costs or the reimbursement of costs as described in section III, below, provided that such costs were incurred during the award's period of performance and are otherwise allowable under the terms of the underlying HSGP award.

III. Allowable Costs and Guidance

A. Transportation and Costs Related to the Provision of Acute Medical Care

1. Vehicle, fuel, mileage, operational overtime, and other types of costs otherwise allowable under an OPSG award's HSGP NOFO are allowable where the costs are in support of the necessary transportation of individuals interdicted while carrying out allowable OPSG-funded activities or operations from the point of interdiction to an applicable law enforcement facility.
2. When transporting individuals interdicted in the course of carrying out allowable OPSG-funded activities or operations from the point of interdiction, non-Federal entities may charge vehicle, fuel, mileage, operational overtime, and other types of costs otherwise allowable under an OPSG award's HSGP NOFO associated with necessary transportation to provide acute medical care for individuals being transported from the point of interdiction. In such cases, non-Federal entities may also charge operational overtime for personnel that monitor a detained individual receiving acute medical care where the individual remains in the custody of the non-Federal law enforcement agency. Costs incurred beyond the acute phase of medical care (e.g., upon admission to the hospital, or after transfer from an acute care facility to the hospital) and costs incurred once the custodial responsibility of the individual is transferred to CBP **are not** allowable under OPSG.
3. Costs described above in sections III.A.1 and 2 are allowable regardless of what entity or agency initially makes the interdiction.
4. Personnel costs incurred by non-Federal law enforcement agencies eligible under OPSG (including deputies, corrections officers, or detention officers) for costs described above in sections III.A.1 and 2 are allowable.

B. Medical Emergency Countermeasures

1. FEMA and USBP support efforts to enhance the safety of law enforcement officers.
2. Allowable expenses include narcotic antagonist pharmaceuticals, detection and identification equipment, safe storage and transportation, personnel protective equipment, and initial equipment training. The Authorized Equipment List (AEL) will be updated to reflect OPSG allowability for these expenses.

C. Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS)

1. The acquisition of SUAS is allowable under OPSG. Non-Federal entities seeking to acquire SUAS with OPSG funds must comply with the requirements and guidance set forth in IB No. 426 and AEL [#03OE-07-SUAS - System, Small Unmanned Aircraft](#). The purchase of this equipment requires prior written approval from the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) in a manner consistent with the guidance in [IB No. 426](#). IB No. 426 includes a requirement that all requests to purchase SUAS with FEMA grant funding must also include copies of the policies and procedures in place to safeguard individuals' privacy,

civil rights, and civil liberties of the jurisdiction that will purchase, take title to, or otherwise use the SUAS equipment, see Presidential Memorandum: [Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#), issued February 20, 2015. The AEL will be updated to reflect allowability under OPSG.

- D. As with all allowable expenditures under HSGP, recipients must agree to and approve the use of funds for the purposes described in this IB and request to amend their grant award accordingly.
- E. Under OPSG, non-Federal entities choosing to use funds for these costs must also collaborate with the appropriate USBP sector, USBP Headquarters, and FEMA GPD in a manner consistent with the terms of the HSGP grant award, including the applicable HSGP NOFO.
- F. Non-Federal entities must continue to comply with all applicable provisions of their awards, including the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Such provisions of OPSG awards also include the limitations on personnel costs, including the 50 percent cap on personnel costs unless a waiver is approved as described in the applicable HSGP NOFO.
- G. Non-Federal entities who wish to use funding for costs associated with the allowable costs identified under the terms of this IB should contact their SAA with any questions concerning the need for modification of their subawards, and for instructions on how to properly charge and account for those costs under their subawards. The SAA, as the grant recipient, is responsible for clearly communicating the approval of any requests to use applicable funding for these costs to the subrecipient(s). Additionally, the SAA is responsible for ensuring that the terms and conditions of any existing subaward or other agreements or contracts that may require modification as a result of the reprioritization are updated in a manner that is consistent with the applicable provisions of the terms of the applicable award, and any applicable state or local laws. The SAA is also responsible for clearly communicating any new or updated terms and conditions to the subrecipient(s).

IV. Questions

Any questions regarding this IB may be directed to your FEMA Program Analyst (PA) or the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at askcsid@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 368-6498.

V. Review Date

This IB will be reviewed within five years (5) from date of issuance.