

**ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT
1 November 2013**

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is the recipient of a \$25 million appropriation to provide grant dollars to Illinois Public Schools in FY14. This is a new program to help fund the implementation of safety and security projects. While the final administrative details and rules are still being developed, the tentative requirements for application are outlined below.

- The formal program will be announced in late fall 2013.
- The grant application period will begin January 1st, 2014 and run for 45-60 days (# of days still TBD).
- Grants will be competitive - not formula based.¹
- The minimum grant amount to districts will be \$5,000.
- Of the \$25 million, \$5 million will be earmarked for Cook Co. school districts and \$5 million for Higher Ed.
- Districts must be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant² and have a current Emergency Operations Plan.

Projects that qualify for funding include:

- Notification and warning systems to alert the public of protective actions.
- Notification and warning systems to provide warning to the public in event of an incident.
- Land/mobile radios, radio base systems deployed as mobile devices or within emergency vehicles, and supporting infrastructure (microwave links and other communications assets, systems, antenna and towers).
- Systems to mitigate damage from blasts, shocks or impacts including; column, window, and surface wraps, shatter/breakage resistant glass, and deflection shields.
- Systems/sensors that detect facility intrusions or access violations.
- Reinforced doors and gates.
- Locking devices and entry systems that control facility access.
- Camera-based security systems.
- Search and inspection systems i.e. x-ray machines, magnetometers, etc.
- Internal notification systems.
- Site based security improvements; i.e. fences, bollards, planters, etc.

IEMA began the first step in setting up the grant process by publishing proposed administrative rules in the Illinois Register last month.

The proposed rules can be seen at:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/register/register_volume37_issue36.pdf beginning on page eight.

From register Vol. 37 issue 36 referenced above.

¹Grants will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- The necessity of the funding based on the known school safety hazards, threats and risks identified by the applicant;
- The ability of the funding to enhance the safety of the student population;
- An evaluation of the likelihood of project completion during the grant period; (12 months to complete)
- Compliance with the National Incident Management System;
- Existence of a current emergency operations plan at each educational facility for which funding is sought;
- Interoperability with existing equipment (if applicable);
- Prioritization of projects by the applicant;
- Sustainability of the project; and
- The availability of funding.

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(Continued)

Proposed Application Requirements

Each application shall include the following:

- Legal name of the applicant.
- The current number of students enrolled by the applicant.
- Information about all buildings to be enhanced by requested funding.
- A narrative statement that describes the known school safety hazards, threats, vulnerabilities and risks posed to the applicant.
- A narrative statement that describes what steps the applicant has taken in the past five years to mitigate the known school safety hazards, threats, vulnerabilities and risks posed to the applicant.

The application shall include the following information for each project:

- A narrative statement that describes the projects proposed for funding and how the protective activities outlined in the project will reduce the vulnerability of the student population.
- The methodology that was used to determine the appropriate protective activities outlined in the project, including list of law enforcement officials or other subject matter experts who provided input to the school in the determination of protective needs and project prioritization.
- A description of any equipment compatibility considerations.
- The current student population in each educational facility that will be affected by the project.
- Project budget and timeline.
- Certification of compliance with the National Incident Management System.²
- Certification that each educational facility to be enhanced by the project has a current emergency operations plan (see 29 Ill. Adm. Code 305 and 1500).
- A copy of a long-term lease agreement that extends a minimum of 10 years from the date of the application if the project affects leased property.
- Point of contact for each project.

² NIMS Publication Information Systems

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-702.a>

Purpose

The NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. This includes public information. The public information systems described in NIMS are designed to effectively manage public information at an incident, regardless of the size and complexity of the situation or the number of entities involved in the response.

Course Topics

The goal of this course is to facilitate **NIMS compliance** by providing students with the basic information and tools that students need to apply NIMS public information systems and protocols during incident management.