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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

# Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department

## Background

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) receives an annual General Fund appropriation that is leveraged with federal funds. These funds support State and local efforts in planning for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating natural and man-made disasters and acts of terrorism. The HSEMD is also funded by multiple nondisaster and disaster-related grants. The following provides information on these grants and programs.

## Administering Federal Funds

Some federal funds are maintained in restricted accounts that are transferred out or expended for a specific purpose.

- **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).** This is a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that is 100.0% federally funded and requires an 80.0% pass-through to local governments. Funds in this Program are used to plan and prepare for terrorist attacks, protect critical infrastructure, and conduct exercises to assess the readiness of state and local jurisdictions to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks. These funds have been used to create the following capabilities: Urban Search and Rescue, Special Weapons and Tactics, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Bomb Squad, Veterinary Rapid Response Teams, Multi-State Agriculture Partnership, and Incident Management Teams.
- **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).** The EMPG Program provides assistance to support a comprehensive all-hazards preparedness system. It is designed to assist in the development and sustainment of emergency management capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery mission areas. This FEMA grant is the primary federal funding support for state and local emergency management agencies. The distribution of funds to localities is determined by the HSEMD. There is a required match for EMPG funds, and the federal share used toward the EMPG Program budget may not exceed 50.0% of the total budget.
- **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP).** The [Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005](#) authorizes the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) to provide assistance to public-sector employees through emergency response training and planning grants. The purpose of this grant program is to increase state and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials in transportation-related accidents and incidents. The HMEP Program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to eligible Local Emergency Planning Committees for hazardous materials planning and training.

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## More Information

Homeland Security and Emergency Management: [homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov)  
LSA Staff Contact: Justus Thompson (515.725.2249) [justus.thompson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:justus.thompson@legis.iowa.gov)

- **Emergency Response Fund (ERF).** The ERF is created and funded through Iowa Code section [29C.8A](#). These funds are received annually and are used to match the HMEP through the U.S. DOT.

## Disaster Recovery

Disaster grants are only received following a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The HSEMD is responsible for conducting disaster recovery through the following federal grants:

- **Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program.** The PA Grant Program is a disaster-based FEMA grant with a 75.0% federal government/25.0% state and local government match cost share. Funds are used for disaster-related emergency and permanent work, including debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair or restoration of public facilities such as roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and grounds, utilities, parks, and recreation facilities. The Program also encourages protection from future damage by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.
- **Hazard Mitigation Assistance.** Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs provide funding from FEMA to states for eligible mitigation projects. The majority of mitigation funding utilized in Iowa has been through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The HMGP is authorized by Section 404 of the federal [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#) following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. The amount of HMGP funding available to a state is based on the estimated total federal assistance to be provided by FEMA for disaster recovery under the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. The HMGP is a disaster-based grant with a 75.0% federal government/25.0% state and local government match rate cost share.

Mitigation funds are used for mitigation planning, property acquisitions, tornado-safe rooms, and infrastructure projects. Infrastructure projects may include structural and nonstructural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards (e.g., strengthening electric utility systems); minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins); and localized flood control projects (e.g., a floodwall). According to the HSEMD, mitigation projects average approximately \$4 in avoided future damages for every \$1 spent.

## Administering Programs

The HSEMD is also responsible for administering the following State programs:

- **911 Wireless Surcharge.** This Program receives funding from a \$1 surcharge per month, per access line on each access line subscriber. Surcharge funds are used to provide 911 wireless services to the citizens of Iowa. The revenue is passed on to local governments through a payment formula and grants for processing the wireless calls. Additional funds are to be used for wireless carrier cost recovery, reimbursement of communication service providers, network improvements, the annual lease costs for the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS), and other items.
- **Radiological Emergency Preparedness.** This Program receives funding from three private nuclear power plants to support the planning, training, and exercise activity at the Duane Arnold Energy Center at Palo, Iowa; the Quad Cities Generating Station near Cordova, Illinois; and Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownsville, Nebraska. The State has annual requirements for all off-site planning, training, and exercise activities. Successfully passing these federally evaluated exercises allows the facilities to maintain operating licenses.
- **State and Local Assistance.** These moneys are administered by the Executive Council and provided to the HSEMD to address costs related to responding to disasters.
- **Radio Communications Platform Lease.** [House File 651](#) (E911 Funding), enacted during the 2015 Legislative Session, states that the HSEMD will pay on a quarterly basis for the lease costs

associated with the ISICS, which interfaces with the Iowa interoperability radio platform. This platform is under the joint purview of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The three departments have been jointly submitting a biannual report to the ISICS Board since July 1, 2016.

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapters [29C](#) and [34A](#)  
Iowa Administrative Code [605](#)

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