

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program?

The Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Grant Program offers funding to eligible applicants to combat the unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), which pose a threat to the safety and security of the American people, communities, and institutions. Through this program, state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments, including their first responder and public safety entities, may purchase UAS detection and tracking technologies. These technologies help public safety officials protect the public and critical infrastructure from nefarious or unlawful use of UAS.

2. What legislation authorized funding for the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program?

The C-UAS Grant Program is authorized by Section 90005(a)(1)(A) of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, 2025 (Pub. L. No. 119-21) and Section 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-296, as amended) (6 U.S.C. § 605). Section 90005(a)(1)(A) of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act appropriated \$500 million for the C-UAS Grant Program.

Section 6(c) of Executive Order 14305, [Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty](#), authorizes the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to “ensure that their respective departments’ grant programs permit otherwise eligible (SLTT agencies to receive grants to purchase UAS or equipment or services for the detection, tracking, or identification of drones and drone signals, consistent with the legal authorities of those SLTTs.”

3. How much funding is available for the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program?

The total amount of funds available under the C-UAS Grant Program is \$500 million. \$250 million will be made available in FY 2026, and the remaining \$250 million will be distributed in FY 2027.



FEMA

4. Where is the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity located?

Due to the current lapse in federal government funding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is unable to update Grants.gov or FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO) with new funding opportunities. To ensure there is no delay in supporting these critical events, the C-UAS Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and all application materials are being distributed directly to State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) via email. Once the lapse in funding is resolved, the NOFO will also be made available on www.grants.gov and www.fema.gov/grants.

5. Who is eligible to apply for the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program funds?

For FY 2026, eligibility for the C-UAS Grant Program is limited to the SAAs of 11 states, including Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey, California, Georgia, Missouri, Kansas, Massachusetts, Washington, and Pennsylvania, and the National Capital Region (NCR) that are directly or indirectly hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 and America 250 national events. The NCR is represented by the District of Columbia as the eligible applicant on behalf of the NCR, including Maryland and Virginia. SAAs are the designated entities responsible for applying for, managing, and administering grant funds on behalf of their jurisdictions.

Tribal governments are not eligible to apply directly for C-UAS Grant Program funding. However, Tribal Nations may access funding as subrecipients by working through their respective SAAs. Another round of funding will be available in FY 2027, during which all 56 SAAs—including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—will be eligible to apply. This phased approach ensures that jurisdictions with immediate operational and security demands are prioritized in FY 2026, while broader eligibility is provided in FY 2027 to support national C-UAS capabilities.

6. What are the key dates associated with the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program?

- **Application Start Date:** October 28, 2025 at 8 a.m. Eastern Time (ET)
- **Application Submission Deadline:** December 5, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET

7. What is the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program period of performance?

The projected period of performance is 39 months, from July 4, 2025, to September 30, 2028.

8. How will Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program funds be allocated?

For FY 2026, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA will prioritize \$250 million in funding for the 11 states that are directly or indirectly hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 events and the NCR,¹ which is hosting America 250 national events. These states and the NCR will receive statutory minimums established under the State Homeland Security Grant Program, with additional funds allocated competitively based on the Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) level of hosted events and the effectiveness of proposed projects.

Risk Tier	State	Minimum Allocation	Funding Available for Competitive Process
Tier 1	Texas	\$3,325,000	\$105,050,000
	Florida	\$3,325,000	
	National Capital Region	\$3,325,000	
	New York	\$3,325,000	
	New Jersey	\$3,325,000	
Tier 2	California	\$3,325,000	\$105,050,000
	Georgia	\$3,325,000	
	Missouri	\$3,325,000	
	Kansas	\$3,325,000	
	Massachusetts	\$3,325,000	
	Washington	\$3,325,000	
	Pennsylvania	\$3,325,000	
Total		\$250,000,000	

The remaining \$250 million in C-UAS Grant Program funds, plus any unused funds from FY 2026, will be distributed in FY 2027, with eligibility expanded to all states and territories. This round is designed to support the development of nationwide detection and response capabilities.

9. Where can I find information about allowable activities?

Please see Appendix A of the NOFO for more information about allowable activities.

10. Does this program have training requirements related to the use of technologies purchased or supported with program funding?

All agencies and personnel operating UAS detection, tracking, identification, or mitigation technologies purchased or supported with C-UAS Grant Program funds must:

¹ The NCR includes the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties in Virginia, along with any cities or units of government within their outer boundaries.

- Include proof of registration and, where applicable, certification with their grant application and maintain this documentation for compliance purposes. Equipment not in regular use, or used for unauthorized purposes, may be subject to recovery, and the recipient may be required to return grant funds. Documentation of usage and deployment must be maintained and submitted in performance progress reports.

11. Does this program have specific requirements related to the use of mitigation technologies purchased or supported with program funding?

To enable state, local, tribal, and territorial personnel to operate the full range of mitigation technologies (e.g., kinetic or non-kinetic capabilities used to disable, destroy or seize control of during flight), the Department of Justice acting through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), shall deputize state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement or correctional facility officers in the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

Funds for C-UAS mitigation capabilities (e.g., kinetic or non-kinetic technologies used to disable, destroy, or seize control of UAS during flight) may only be authorized for law enforcement or correctional agencies with personnel who have been trained or are scheduled to be trained at the FBI National Counter-UAS Training Center (NCUTC) on C-UAS mitigation operations and under the control or direction of a Federal Agency or Department with the authority to conduct such actions. Additionally, mitigation technologies procured through this program, including radio frequency systems, kinetic systems, and advanced detection, tracking, and identification systems, must be consistent with the technological capabilities of the equipment used at the FBI NCUTC.

12. What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions?

For additional program-specific information, please contact FEMA-GPD-GrantPrograms@fema.dhs.gov.

For support regarding financial grant management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the DHS/FEMA Award Administration Help Desk via email at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.

For guidance on how to select and leverage UAS detection technology, see the [Unmanned Aircraft System Detection Technology Guidance](#) developed by Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

13. How do we ensure that we are receiving the latest information, updates, and guidance from FEMA on the status of the preparedness grants?

All communications will be sent via FEMA-GPD-GrantPrograms@fema.dhs.gov.

14. If one or more of my projects is deemed ineffective, will I lose funding?

Recipients and subrecipients will not be permitted to expend funding until the effectiveness of the proposed projects have been reviewed and confirmed by FEMA. An effectiveness review evaluates whether the project aligns with program goals, demonstrates measurable outcomes, and meets eligibility and compliance requirements. This review will be conducted during the award-making process to ensure that all funded projects can achieve their intended objectives and contribute to the program's mission. If a project is deemed ineffective, funding for that project may be placed on hold until necessary adjustments are made to meet program requirements.

Application Development and Submission

15. How will Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program applications be submitted?

FY 2026 eligibility is limited to SAAs from the 11 states and the NCR that are directly or indirectly hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 and America 250 national events. The NCR is represented by the District of Columbia as the eligible applicant on behalf of the NCR, including Maryland and Virginia.

Due to the current lapse in federal government funding, FEMA is distributing the NOFO and application materials directly via email to the eligible SAAs. This approach ensures SAAs can access funding quickly and efficiently to support critical preparedness efforts.

If the funding lapse continues past the December 5, 2025, application deadline, SAAs may submit their applications via email to FEMA-GPD-GrantPrograms@fema.dhs.gov with all required information from the NOFO. Once the lapse is resolved, SAAs will be expected to submit the full application into the FEMA GO system to complete the submission process.

All application materials will be posted on Grants.gov once available. Completed applications must be submitted either via email or FEMA GO no later than **5 p.m. ET on December 5, 2025**.

Application Reviews

16. Can FEMA provide additional details to help applicants better understand how effectiveness and feasibility will be determined for the investments?

Section 7 “Application Review Information” of the C-UAS Grant Program NOFO outlines the effectiveness criteria that will be used to assess submitted investment projects. FEMA recommends applicants provide detailed supporting information to demonstrate how their projects effectively address program priorities.

The application package must include all required components, including the Application Worksheet and the Investment Justification, as supplemental documents. Together, these components collectively provide the information necessary for FEMA to evaluate the proposed project’s alignment with the program’s objectives, operational need, and feasibility.

Through these required documents, applicants must clearly describe the operational need for UAS detection capabilities in their jurisdiction, including specific threats, vulnerabilities, or gaps that the project will address. The Investment Justification must outline the proposed project and implementation plan, detailing the activities to be undertaken, the timeline for completion, and how the project will enhance UAS detection, tracking, and response capabilities. Additionally, applicants must include a detailed budget that breaks down costs by category (e.g., Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercises) and provides a justification for each expense. All submissions must adhere to the requirements outlined in the NOFO and comply with applicable federal laws and regulations.

Subapplicant proposals will be considered based on the project's adherence to eligible costs outlined below. Partial funding may be approved to remove ineligible costs that are not specified or deemed unallowable.

Federal reviewers will check each proposed investment for the following: eligibility, feasibility, and alignment with the application criteria listed in this NOFO. See Section 7 of the NOFO for the technology effectiveness checklist and scoring criteria.

17. What are the administrative and eligibility criteria that the FEMA will use to verify compliance for all proposed investments?

FEMA will evaluate all applications for completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, and feasibility of the proposed investments. This review applies to all projects. In addition, FEMA's review will include verification that each project has a demonstrated nexus to identification, detection, tracking, or monitoring of UAS.

FEMA is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3354, as enacted by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-117 (2020); 41 U.S.C. § 2313; and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206 to review information available through any Office of Management and Budget-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information. Application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant: (1) financial stability; (2) quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards; (3) history of performance in managing federal awards; (4) reports and findings from audits; and (5) ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

18. Will projects be reviewed individually?

Yes, projects will be reviewed individually.

Award Administration

19. Are SAAs required to pass through at least 97% of the funds to local or tribal governments, including their first responder and/or public safety entities Within 45 calendar days of receipt of the funds?

Yes. To meet this requirement, the SAA must make funds available to local and tribal governments in an amount that accounts for at least 97% of the award within 45 calendar days of receiving the funds. The SAA may issue these subawards even if the effectiveness review is still pending. However, subrecipients are not allowed to spend the funds until the eligibility review is completed and FEMA releases any funds that were on hold.

For example, if an SAA receives a \$10 million C-UAS Grant Program award, it must pass through at least \$9.7 million to local or tribal governments within 45 days. If any of that \$9.7 million is subject to the effectiveness review, the SAA would issue applicable subawards covering that portion, but the subrecipients could not expend the funding that remains subject to the effectiveness review until the review is completed.

It is important to note that the only exception to this rule is that the SAA may retain a portion of funds, with appropriate justification, to purchase equipment or support activities at the state level that benefit state law

enforcement agencies or address other statewide needs for this technology. However, the amount of funds that can be retained by the SAA under this exception cannot exceed 20% of the total awarded funding.

Contact Information

20. Who do I contact if I have questions?

For additional program-specific information, please contact FEMA-GPD-GrantPrograms@fema.dhs.gov.