

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program Fact Sheet

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is providing \$500 million to enhance the ability of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to protect the public and critical infrastructure from nefarious or unlawful use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

Overview

The Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Grant Program, established under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, 2025 (Pub. L. No. 119-21, Sec. 90005(a)), provides \$500 million in funding to enhance state, local, tribal and territorial capabilities to detect, identify, track, and monitor UAS (as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 44801), consistent with Titles 18 and 49 of the U.S.C. This funding supports state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in combatting the unlawful use of UAS that pose a threat to the safety and security of the American people, communities, and institutions.

Funding

The program allocates \$500 million over two fiscal years:

- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2026:** \$250 million is available, with funding prioritized for jurisdictions hosting National Special Security Events (NSSEs) or Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) 1 or 2 events, such as the FIFA World Cup 2026 and America 250 events.
- **FY 2027:** The remaining \$250 million, plus any unallocated funds from FY 2026, will be distributed to all states and territories to support nationwide UAS detection and response capabilities.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) are the only entities eligible to submit C-UAS Grant Program applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including those applications submitted on behalf of subapplicants.



FEMA

Subapplicants

Local, tribal, and territorial government entities, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, and other qualifying public safety organizations are eligible subapplicants.

Restrictions

- Tribal governments may not apply directly but may participate as subapplicants.
- Foreign nationals or noncitizens must be properly vetted and approved under applicable federal statutes and policies.

Funding Structure

Section 90005(a)(1)(A) of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act appropriates funds for the C-UAS Grant Program under the authorizing statute for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). This statute identifies states and territories as the sole eligible applicants for these funds. It also establishes the following statutory minimums for states and territories:

- **States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia:** Each will receive at least 0.35% of total C-UAS Grant Program funds.
- **American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands:** Each will receive at least 0.08% of total C-UAS Grant Program funds.

This framework ensures that all jurisdictions, regardless of size, receive baseline funding to enhance their capabilities to address UAS-related threats while allowing for competitive allocations to address specific security needs. Additional funds are awarded competitively based on the SEAR level of hosted events and the effectiveness of proposed projects.

Note: The funding structure may differ between FY 2026 and FY 2027 due to the phased eligibility approach. FY 2026 prioritizes jurisdictions hosting NSSEs and SEAR 1 or 2 events, while FY 2027 expands eligibility to all states and territories, allowing broader participation and competitive funding allocations.

Fiscal Year-Specific Requirements

Fiscal Year	Program Eligibility	Funding Structure
2026	Eligibility limited to the SAAs representing the 11 states and the National Capital Region (NCR)* directly or indirectly hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 and America 250 events, which are all NSSE or SEAR 1 or 2 rated events	\$250 million is available. Eligible states and the NCR will receive statutory minimum allocations as defined under SHSP, with additional funds awarded competitively based on the SEAR level of hosted events and the effectiveness of proposed projects. See Appendix A of the Notice of Funding Opportunity

Fiscal Year	Program Eligibility	Funding Structure
		(NOFO) for more information on minimum allocations and competitive funding amounts.
2027	All states and territories are eligible. This round is designed to support the development of nationwide detection and response capabilities.	\$250 million, plus any unallocated used funds from FY 2026, will be available. Funding will be awarded competitively based on proposed projects and security needs.

*NCR is represented by the District of Columbia as the eligible applicant on behalf of Maryland and Virginia

Funding Guidelines

Costs charged to federal awards (including federal and non-federal cost share funds) must comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations, policies, the NOFO, the relevant sections of the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#) as identified in the NOFO, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred and products and services must be delivered within the budget period. See [2 C.F.R. § 200.403\(h\)](#).

Recipients may not use federal funds or any cost share funds for the following activities:

1. Matching or cost sharing requirements for other federal grants and cooperative agreements (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.306](#)).
2. Lobbying or other prohibited activities under [18 U.S.C § 1913](#) or [2 C.F.R. § 200.450](#).
3. Prosecuting claims against the federal government or any other government entity (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.435](#)).

PASS-THROUGH REQUIREMENTS

SAA's are required to pass-through at least **97%** of C-UAS Grant Program funding to local or tribal units of government. For more information on the pass-through requirement, please refer to Sections 2.E, 4.E, and 8.B of the C-UAS Grant Program NOFO. The only exception is that SAA's may retain a portion of funds, with appropriate justification, to make equipment purchases or support activities at the state level that benefit state law enforcement agencies or statewide needs for this technology. The amount of funds that can be retained by the SAA under this exception cannot exceed 20% of the total awarded funding.

Application Process

Due to the lapse in appropriations, FEMA has made temporary adjustments to the application process. During this time, the NOFO and application materials will be distributed via email to eligible SAA's for FY 2026 funding to allow them to begin submitting applications via email.

During the appropriation lapse, all applications must be submitted via email directly to FEMA-GPD-GrantPrograms@fema.dhs.gov by **5 p.m. ET on December 5, 2025**.

Once the lapse in appropriations is resolved, the application process may transition back to the **standard process** using [FEMA Grants Outcomes](#) (FEMA GO). All application information submitted via email during the temporary process may need to be entered into FEMA GO. FEMA will provide additional guidance to assist SAAs in managing the email application process and ensuring a smooth transition back to FEMA GO.

Multi-Step Application Process

Applying for an award under the C-UAS Grant Program involves multiple steps. Applicants (SAAs only) are strongly encouraged to ensure their Unique Entity Identifiers are up to date in [SAM.gov](#), as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Early registration is critical to avoid delays that could impact submission deadlines.

For detailed instructions, please refer to Section 5 of the C-UAS Grant Program NOFO.

ACCESSING APPLICATION MATERIALS

Eligible SAAs will receive materials via email. Once the lapse in appropriations is resolved, materials will be posted on [Grants.gov](#).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Completed applications must be submitted no later than **5 p.m. ET on December 5, 2025**.

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

To ensure a complete submission, applicants must submit the following materials via email:

- **Application Worksheet:** A tool to help applicants organize and complete their submissions.
- **Investment Justification (IJ):** A detailed explanation of the proposed projects.
- **Standard Forms (SF):** Standard forms are available at [Grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family](#)
 - SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
 - Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying
 - SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction)
 - For construction under an award, submit SF-424C, Budget Information (Construction), in addition to or instead of SF-424A.
 - SF-424B, Standard Assurances (Non-Construction)
 - For construction under an award, submit SF-424D, Standard Assurances (Construction), in addition to or instead of SF-424B.
 - SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Application Review

Applications submitted under the C-UAS Grant Program will undergo a multi-step review process to ensure compliance with program requirements, alignment with objectives, and competitive scoring criteria. The review process includes the following steps:

1. STATE REVIEW

The SAA reviews subaward applications to ensure they meet the legal, financial, and programmatic requirements set forth by FEMA and the state's guidelines before submitting on behalf of the state to DHS/FEMA. In this review, the SAA must:

- Conduct an eligibility review,
- Review and score only complete application packages using the C-UAS Grant Program Scoring Criteria provided by DHS/FEMA,
- Coordinate with local and tribal governments, then prioritize projects that align with the NOFO requirements,
- Submit IJs that are recommended for funding to DHS/FEMA, and
- Submit IJs received and not recommended for funding, including incomplete IJs and IJs from subapplicants deemed ineligible to DHS/FEMA.

2. COMPLIANCE REVIEW

FEMA will evaluate applications for eligibility and completeness to ensure compliance with program requirements outlined in the NOFO. Applications missing required documentation or submitted after the deadline will be deemed ineligible.

3. COMPETITIVE SCORING

Applications will be scored based on specific criteria, including the inclusion of allowable activities, alignment with program goals, and the effectiveness of proposed projects.

Scoring Sheet

Applications will be scored using the following criteria:

Criteria	Points
Mitigation Capabilities	Up to 30
Radar	Up to 2
Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR)	Up to 2
Passive Radio Frequency (RF) Detection	Up to 2
Remote Identification (ID) Receivers	Up to 2
Detect-Track-Identify Chain	Up to 2
Deployment/Connectivity Plan	Up to 2

Criteria	Points
Wide Area Detection, Tracking, Identifying, and Mitigation (DTIM) Software as a Service (SaaS) Alignment	Up to 2
Training and Operator Readiness	Up to 2
Capability Type (New/Enhancement)	Up to 2
Timely Implementation	Up to 2
SEAR 1 or 2 Event Support	Up to 50

3. FEDERAL REVIEW

FEMA will conduct a federal review to assess the feasibility, eligibility, and alignment of proposed projects with program goals. This step includes evaluating the IJ, budget, and timeline for each application. Reviewers for the C-UAS Grant Program are selected from within FEMA, across the federal government, and, where applicable, may include external subject matter experts. These reviewers are chosen based on their expertise in homeland security, emergency management, and grant administration.

4. FINAL SELECTION

In coordination with federal subject matter experts, FEMA will recommend funding of projects in rank order based on the risk and effectiveness. The Secretary of Homeland Security makes the final funding decisions, considering risk assessments, subject-matter expert input, and project feasibility, while also ensuring alignment with national priorities and compliance with legal, financial, and policy guidelines for strategic allocation of funds.

Application Status

FEMA will review all submitted applications and notify SAAs of the status of their projects. SAAs will be informed whether their projects are approved, require revisions or additional information, or are denied.

Allowability

To maximize the impact of the grant program, Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, Exercises (POETE) activities should be integrated into a cohesive strategy. For example:

- **Planning:** Develop a UAS response plan.
- **Organization:** Cover program management costs and operational overtime.
- **Equipment:** Procure/deploy DTIM systems.
- **Training:** Train personnel on system operation and response protocols.
- **Exercises:** Test the system and response plan in a simulated incident.

By funding activities across the POETE framework, the C-UAS Grant Program can ensure a comprehensive approach to building and sustaining capabilities for the DTIM technologies to support public safety officials in the protection of the public and critical infrastructure from nefarious or unlawful use of UAS.

THE C-UAS GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Planning

- Developing or updating UAS-specific response plans that integrate detection systems into existing emergency operations plans (EOPs) or incident command systems.
- Conducting risk assessments to identify high-priority areas for UAS detection, such as critical infrastructure, public events, or disaster-prone areas.
- Developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for responding to unauthorized or malicious UAS activity.
- Coordinating with federal agencies (e.g., Federal Aviation Administration, DHS) to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations governing UAS detection and mitigation.
- Establishing information-sharing protocols with fusion centers, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to disseminate UAS-related threat intelligence.
- Planning for the integration of UAS detection systems with existing public safety technologies, such as GIS platforms or computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems.

Organization

- Salaries for personnel supporting C-UAS operations, including operational overtime.

Equipment

- For detection, tracking, and identification:
 - Radar (active and passive)
 - Electro Optical and Infrared Cameras
 - Radio Frequency Detection Systems
 - Acoustic Systems
 - Remote ID and similar broadcast beacon receivers
 - Integrated multi-sensor systems include all or some of the above
 - Senior fusion software and hardware
 - Networking communications
- For UAS Mitigation:
 - Physical barrier such as Security Netting (authorized for all entities)
 - Only available for jurisdictions trained at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Counter-UAS Training Center (NCUTC) – specific systems are subject to approval by NCUTC

- Radio frequency cyber take-over
 - Radio frequency jamming
 - Drone interception (those not considered “weaponized aircraft”)
 - Integrated systems which combine some or all the above
- Third Party Data Service Providers.
- Acquiring sensor fusion software to integrate data from multiple detection systems into a common operational picture (COP).
- Procuring portable/mobile UAS detection systems for use during temporary events or in remote areas.
- Investing in UAS SaaS subscription models to access cutting-edge technology without the need for large upfront investments, including but not limited to surveillance as a service and data as a service.
- Purchasing mounts, masts, power supplies, and networking equipment to support the deployment of UAS detection systems.
- Procuring calibration tools and spares to ensure the ongoing functionality of detection equipment.

Mitigation Technology Requirements

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 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 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 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.

FBI NCUTC training is only required for mitigation capabilities. It is not required for operating UAS detection, tracking, or identification technologies.

Training and Travel

- Training programs for C-UAS systems.
- Attendance at FBI NCUTC.
- Necessary related travel costs for C-UAS personnel, adhering to federal GSA standards and policy.
- Providing hands-on training for first responders on the operation of specific UAS detection systems.
- Conducting train-the-trainer programs to build local capacity for ongoing training efforts.

- Providing scenario-based training to prepare responders for real-world UAS threats, such as swarming UAS or UAS equipped with payloads.
- Training personnel on the interpretation of UAS detection data and the integration of this data into decision-making processes.

Exercising

- Conducting tabletop exercises to simulate UAS-related incidents and test response plans, SOPs, and coordination protocols.
- Organizing functional exercises to test the operation of UAS detection systems and the integration of these systems with other public safety technologies.
- Running full-scale exercises to simulate large-scale UAS threats, such as unauthorized UAS activity at a public event or near critical infrastructure.
- Including multi-jurisdictional exercises to test coordination between state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal agencies, as well as private sector partners.
- Conducting after-action reviews (AARs) to identify lessons learned and areas for improvement following exercises.
- Incorporating UAS detection scenarios into broader homeland security exercises, such as those focused on terrorism or disaster response.

Management and Administration

- Necessary direct costs incurred in direct support of the federal award or as a consequence of it, such as travel, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part-time staff in direct support of the program. As such, management and administration (M&A) costs can be itemized in financial reports. If an outside consultant or contractor is used for grant writing or grant management, additional federal requirements may apply. Per 6 USC 609(a)(12), M&A expenses cannot exceed 3% of the grant amount.

Investment Justifications

Applicants must submit an **IJ** that includes:

- 1. Project Description:**
 - Overview of planned activities, services, or equipment purchases.
 - Alignment with the POETE framework.
- 2. Capability Gap:**
 - Identification of threats, vulnerabilities, or risks posed by UAS in the applicant's jurisdiction.
- 3. Project Objectives:**
 - Specific goals to enhance public safety and critical infrastructure protection.
- 4. Subrecipient Impact** (if applicable):

- Description of how subrecipients will contribute to achieving program goals.

5. Performance Goals:

- Measurable outcomes, such as the number of systems deployed, personnel trained, and exercises conducted.

6. Budget and Timeline:

- Detailed breakdown of costs and key milestones for project implementation.

Additional Guidance for Completing the Investment Justification

- **Use Data to Support the Need:** Include data, risk assessments, or real-world examples to substantiate the operational need for UAS detection capabilities.
- **Focus on Impact:** Emphasize how the project will enhance public safety, protect critical infrastructure, and address UAS-related threats.
- **Be Specific and Measurable:** Avoid vague statements. Provide concrete details about the project's scope, activities, and expected outcomes.

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Grant Program Resources

There are a variety of resources available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions, which can assist with applications:

- The FY 2025 Preparedness Grants Manual is available online at fema.gov/grants/preparedness/manual. Applicants should only reference the sections of the Preparedness Grants Manual identified in the NOFO.
- For additional program-specific information, please contact FEMA-GPD-GrantPrograms@fema.dhs.gov.
- For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the 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.