



The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. Conference of Mayors Announces: 90 Percent of Cities Left Empty-Handed Without Funds From Largest Federal Homeland Security Program

Cities First To Respond, Last In Line For Funding Reveals First-Ever, 50-State Analysis

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NEW YORK CITY/LOS ANGELES -- Exactly 90 percent of cities have not received funds from the country's largest federal homeland security program designed to assist local officials, police, fire chiefs and other "first responders" to prevent, prepare for and react to a terrorist attack, findings from a first-ever, 50-state analysis revealed today. The U.S. Conference of Mayors released the nationwide survey with mayors from across the country at bi-coastal press conferences today.

Entitled 'First Mayors' Report to the Nation: Tracking Homeland Security Funds Sent to the 50 State Governments,' the analysis found that states have been slow to distribute funds to cities, as required by federal legislation passed in March. It also found that over half of the cities have either not been consulted or have had no opportunity to influence state decision-making about how to use and distribute funding. The analysis surveyed 168 cities of all sizes in all 50 states to measure the effectiveness of states' planning and delivery of ten different homeland security funds designed to strengthen local governments' ability to protect its residents.

"911 does not ring at the statehouse; it rings at City Hall," said USCM President James Garner, Mayor of Hempstead, NY. "Cities are the first to respond in a crisis, but last in line for funds. We need direct funds. We call on Congress and the Administration to help."

Long Beach, CA Mayor Beverly O'Neill, who serves as Chair of the USCM Advisory Board, said cities are hurting financially but yet "have no choice to front billions of dollars in homeland security funds literally stuck at the state level. Where's the money to cover the \$70 million a week we spend under an orange alert? We need action, not process."

One month after 9/11, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urged federal lawmakers to ensure that cities receive direct funding for homeland security; however, Congress and the Administration decided to funnel the money through states for first responders.

"Unfortunately, terrorists don't have to fill out forms in triplicate. Until this problem is resolved, we will continue to monitor the flow of money. Without direct funding to cities, I am afraid we could be facing homeland insecurity," said Tom Cochran, USCM executive director.

Cochran said mayors' concerns about state administration of federal homeland security funding are grounded in many cities' past experience with their states in other areas of public service delivery. A particular concern was that states would not be providing the specific resources – including technology and equipment – that mayors know are most needed in their individual cities to meet their greatly increased security responsibilities.

Highlights from the analysis of the homeland security federal funds are below. The complete analysis is available from the U.S. Conference of Mayors at the telephone numbers above or at its web site, usmayors.org.

Federal First Responder/Critical Infrastructure Funding -- \$1.5 Billion

- As of August 1, 90 percent of the survey cities had not received this first responder/ critical infrastructure funding through their states.
- In 58 percent of the cities, officials said they had not been given an adequate opportunity to influence their states in regard to how these funds would be used in their cities; in 57 percent of the cities, officials said they had not been given an opportunity to influence the use of the funds in their areas.

State Domestic Preparedness Funding -- \$556 Million

- As of August 1, 80 percent of the survey cities had not received this domestic preparedness funding through their states.
- In more than half (52 percent) of the cities, officials said they had not been given an adequate opportunity to influence their states in regard to how these funds would be used in their cities; in just under half of the cities (49 percent), officials said they had not been given an opportunity to influence the use of the funds in their areas.
- Officials in 40 percent of the cities said the allowable uses of the funds will not address their top security priorities.

Urban Area Security Initiative for High Threat Areas -- \$600 Million

- Officials in more than one-third of the survey cities (36 percent) which are in, or are mutual aid partners with, the 30 urban areas receiving funding through this

Initiative said they have not been involved in the state planning process for the use of the funds.

- 44 percent of the cities indicate that their state is exercising its option to keep a portion of this program's funds to complement state assets that assist urban areas.
- Officials in one-fifth of the cities said they have gotten an indication that their city or area would receive less funding under other homeland security programs because they are receiving funds under the Urban Area Security Initiative.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Hospital Preparedness -- \$1.4 Billion

- Officials in nearly half the survey cities (48 percent) do not believe their city government or health department had an adequate opportunity to participate in their state's planning process for public health and hospital preparedness activities to be funded through this program.
- The same number of officials do not believe their state's plan adequately reflects their priorities for use of these funds.
- In 83 percent of the cities, officials anticipate that the health department serving their residents will be funded through this program; officials in 82 percent of the cities expect that one or more of their hospitals will receive funding.

Airport Law Enforcement Reimbursement

- Among the survey cities which provide law enforcement assistance to an airport, 37 percent of the airport operators have not been reimbursed for additional law enforcement costs associated with security at airport checkpoints.
- For those airports which have been reimbursed, 40 percent of the cities report that the airport operator has not provided this reimbursement to the city government.

Port Security Grant Program -- \$245 Million

- Officials in just over half the survey cities (52 percent) having a port that is receiving funding through this program said they were responsible for providing security or other services to that port.
- Of these cities, 58 percent said they were not receiving funding through the program.

City Involvement in State Planning Processes

- Officials in 34 percent of the survey cities said their states had not involved them in the development of the statewide preparedness needs assessments required by the former federal Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support in 2000.
- Officials in 42 percent of the cities said they were not involved in the development of the statewide domestic preparedness strategies, also required by that agency.
- Just under half of the cities (49 percent) said their states had not invited them to become involved in development of an updated homeland security strategy, as required in the new ODP guidance.

Comments From Mayors Participating In Today's Press Conferences:

Elizabeth, NJ Mayor J. Christian Bollwage:

"There is no reason why the nation's first responders should not have funding from the legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President over six months ago. Instead, almost 90 percent of them have been left empty handed and are using band-aid funding approaches to provide the security that the American people deserve and have every right to expect."

Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley:

"Cities are on the frontline of homeland security, but in the back of the line for funding. We're sending \$87 billion to Iraq for reconstruction, but we can't even get \$4 billion spent in direct funding to our first responders to protect Americans. The Administration and Congress should act now to direct appropriate homeland security funds to cities and eliminate the bureaucracy of a middle man."

Sugar Land, TX Mayor David Wallace:

"This analysis clearly shows that cities of all sizes – small, medium and large – are not getting the money they need to prepare their first responders and protect residents. The leadership in our cities, not the state or federal government, have the ultimate fiduciary and public safety responsibilities to our residents. When it comes to homeland security, no city should be underfunded or underprotected."

Gary, IN Mayor Scott King:

"Not only are we last in line for funding, we are the last in line to be consulted about what it takes to protect our residents. More than half of the cities say they have not been at the table to influence decisions and coordinate response efforts. Cities know their needs best. State bureaucrats are in no position to decide whether or what kind of protective suits or communications equipment we need for homeland security."

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn:

"This study confirms that cities are still waiting to get the money for homeland security enhancements. That needs to change. Los Angeles has spent over \$138 million since September 11 on personnel, equipment, training, and other homeland security improvements - and we still have a lot more to do. I urge Congress and the Bush Administration to allocate more homeland security funding and ensure that the funds are distributed in an effective and timely manner."

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