2009 SHSP, SLETPP and SLHD Guidance: Executive Overview

I. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): Major Requirements

The federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified the following major requirements for the 2009 SHSP, SLETPP, and SLHD grants:

1. **Investment Justifications:** All 2009 SHSP, SLETPP, and SLHD funding must be spent in support of one or more of New York State’s Investment Justifications. To assist grantees in meeting this requirement, the NYS Office of Homeland Security (OHS), in conjunction with the inter-agency Homeland Security Strategy Work Group (HSSWG), has developed the “2009 Priority Project List”. All Priority Projects link directly back to the State’s Investment Justifications and the NYS Homeland Security Strategy. We strongly encourage that you utilize the Priority Project List as you develop your spending plans for 2009 grant funds.

2. **Strengthen Preparedness Planning:** 25% of your SHSP, SLETPP, and SLHD awards must be spent to “Strengthen Preparedness Planning”, which can be done via planning, training, and/or exercise activities.

3. **50% Personnel Cap:** Up to 50% of your award may be spent on allowable personnel-related costs. This is a major change from the 2008 guidelines. Your designated grant Point of Contact (POC) will be given detailed information on what activities count towards the 50% personnel cap, such as the hiring of staff, overtime/backfill for training and exercises, and certain consultant costs.

II. NYS Homeland Security Strategy


We request that you and your homeland security officials review the Strategy and utilize it in your strategic planning processes. The Strategy, along with the Priority Project List, should be helpful as you develop your 2009 spending plans. We also welcome any feedback you have on the Strategy. Comments can be sent to strategy@security.state.ny.us.

III. Capability Measurement

The federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is increasingly emphasizing the importance of measuring how federal grant dollars have enhanced preparedness. In 2009, DHS is requiring states to complete a detailed assessment of their capabilities across the 37 target capabilities identified by DHS. This assessment tool, called the State Preparedness Report (SPR) Survey, will be released by DHS this fall with a due date in early January.

To complete this year’s SPR Survey, OHS is planning to engage the State’s five Urban Area Working Groups (UAWGs); counties located within the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown and Binghamton Metropolitan Statistical Areas, respectively; and a sample of counties located on the Northern Border. Additional details on the SPR Survey will be forthcoming to these areas this fall. If you have any initial questions about the SPR Survey, please contact Bill Shea (wshea@security.state.ny.us).

In addition to the SPR Survey, DHS also recently launched pilot testing of its Cost-to-Capability (C2C) Initiative. The C2C is a decision-support tool designed to assess how federal homeland security dollars have enhanced preparedness and to assist decision-makers as they select projects to enhance their capabilities.

While the C2C will not impact your County’s award in 2009, OHS wants to ensure that our grant stakeholders are aware of the C2C Initiative. If the C2C goes “live” in 2011 as expected, it will likely alter the types of information that OHS collects from local grantees. While we do not have exact details at this point, we will certainly reach out to our grantees as more information becomes available from DHS. If you have any initial questions about the C2C, please do not hesitate to reach out to OHS.