



Peter J. Boynton
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY



ADVISORY BULLETIN 2011 – 1
Issued January 5, 2011

**RE: Maintenance and Sustainment Costs for Preparedness Grant
Funded Equipment**

Since its founding in 2005, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has used all available funding sources (federal grants, state general funds and private grant resources), directly or indirectly, to purchase emergency management and homeland security related equipment for state agencies, regions and municipalities, in order to ensure that first responders in Connecticut are adequately equipped. Some examples of this equipment include personal protective equipment (PPE), radiation detection meters, automated fingerprint systems, surveillance systems, response vehicles and interoperable communications equipment.

In November of 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began allowing grantees to use federal grant funds for maintenance and sustainment costs of equipment purchased with previous federal grant funding (see attached FEMA Informational Bulletin No. 336). This information was shared with Connecticut stakeholders in November 2009. In September 2010, FEMA further clarified their guidance by issuing Information Bulletin No. 348 (see attached).

While this expanded use of grant funding is welcome, federal grant support has begun to decline. Connecticut currently uses annual grant award funding to sustain existing grant-funded initiatives at both the state level and at the regional level through the Regional Emergency Planning Teams (REPTs). FEMA Information Bulletin No. 336 and No. 348 permit this sustainment funding and DEMHS supports it as well. Maintaining our state's preparedness capability is as important as the initial investment in building that capability.

DEMHS strongly encourages all municipalities to continue to participate in the REPT budget process. To assure that regional team needs are considered, regional team representatives (HAZMAT, Bomb, IMT, etc.) should particularly be encouraged to be involved in this process. These teams benefit the entire region and should be fully integrated into the regional funding process that Connecticut pursues through the REPTs. Regional teams should consider requesting sustainment funding for equipment purchased with prior year Homeland Security Grant funding through the REPT budget process. REPTs are reminded that IB 336 requires that **“maintenance contracts and warranties must be purchased using funds from the same grant program used to purchase the original equipment (i.e. if equipment was purchased with HSGP grant funds, the maintenance contract or warranty must be purchased using HSGP grant funds).”**

To help facilitate this partnership, beginning with the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 Regional Collaboration/REPT Grant Program, DEMHS will embed regional set-asides (e.g. HAZMAT annual set-aside) into the REPT grant application. The REPT will be required to budget for and spend, at minimum, the set-aside amount. DEMHS will no longer issue or administer separate grant awards or entitlements for regional teams beginning with FFY2010 Homeland Security Grant funds and continuing into the future.

DEMHS encourages all municipal representatives, regional teams and first responders to continue to engage in the regional planning and funding approach that began in 2007. The REPTs have been very successful in identifying and meeting each region's unique needs. Expanding participation to more fully involve regional team representatives will build regional cohesion, enhance preparedness and strengthen regional resiliency.



Peter J. Boynton, Commissioner

1/5/11

Date