

## **NGA CENTER RELEASES HOMELAND SECURITY GUIDE**

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) has released *A Governor's Guide to Homeland Security*, which provides governors with an overview of their homeland security roles and responsibilities. The guide was released via teleconference by Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons, NGA co-lead governors for homeland security.

*A Governor's Guide to Homeland Security* contains practical advice for governors on how to organize their states to prepare for and respond to hazards of all kinds effectively. It shares information and guidance on how to approach issues such as mutual aid, information sharing, obtaining assistance from the military, and protecting critical infrastructure. Last published in 2002, the guide includes a significant amount of new and updated information.

"As the chief executives of our states, governors are responsible for the safety and security of our citizens and ensuring our states are adequately prepared for emergencies and disasters of all types and sizes from widespread power outages and hazardous materials spills to catastrophes on the scale of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina," Gov. Minner said. "This guide focuses on areas governors must immediately be aware of, as well as the resources they are most likely to rely on during the initial response to an incident."

The content of the guide is based on the experiences of governors who have managed during crises and draws on lessons learned by states. Among its highlights, the guide emphasizes that emergency preparedness and homeland security must be a priority of all governors, recommends governors set priorities and develop the structures and systems required to support those priorities, and stresses the need for cooperation among the state and local officials within and among states who will be expected to play a role in emergency response.

"This guide addresses one of the most difficult questions facing our nation's governors, 'Are we prepared to respond to an emergency incident, whether it is

man-made or a natural disaster?'" Gov. Gibbons said. "As the threats to our country become more complex, we must increase our efforts to work cooperatively across state lines and further our knowledge and understanding of those practices that have proven successful in other states." For more information, visit [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org). (Source: National Governors Association, March 15, 2007.)

## **FY 2007 EMPG ALLOCATIONS**

The US Department of Homeland Security has released \$194 million to help states and local governments prepare and implement emergency management activities through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. Emergency managers have been awarded more than \$750 million since fiscal year 2004 through the program.

"The department remains steadfast in its commitment to providing this critical assistance to the nation's emergency management community," said Under Secretary George Foresman. "These resources will help state and local officials to sustain or strengthen the effectiveness of emergency management programs nationwide."

State emergency management agencies use EMPG funds to enhance their emergency management capabilities in a range of areas that include planning, equipping, training, conducting exercises, and providing for all-hazards emergency management operations. In addition, EMPG funds are used to pay for personnel who write plans, conduct training and exercise programs, maintain emergency response programs, and educate the public on disaster readiness.

EMPG funding supports state emergency management programs based on needs identified through the Emergency Management Accreditation Programs Process, the Nationwide Plan Review, or other emergency management assessment processes, and addresses the national priorities outlined in the Interim National Preparedness Goal. For information on the fiscal year 2007 EMPG, please visit [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov). (Source: US Department of Homeland Security, February 27, 2007.)