



**First Responders Preparedness Planning Group Meeting
(FRPPG)
Thursday, October 21, 2026
8:30 AM MDT**

**El Paso County 911 District
6055 Threadgill Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79924**

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of minutes from the Previous Meeting. (Presented by Chief Roger Esparaza, FRPPG Chairperson)
2. First Responders Preparedness Planning Group – Election of Officers. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
3. FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group – Bylaws. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
4. FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group – Membership. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
5. FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - Scoring Instrument. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
6. FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group – Policy and Procedures. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
7. FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - State Homeland Security
8. Program Regular Projects Regional Priorities. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
9. Public Safety Office – State Homeland Security Program. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
10. Statewide Interoperable Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs). (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



11. Texas Interoperability Level Survey and Focus Group Survey. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
12. Texas Radio Rodeo. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)
13. Other Business
14. Adjournment



Agenda Item # 1

To: RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - Minutes

DISCUSS AND ACT UPON AS NEEDED

Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held on April 1 and April 2, 2026. (Presented by Chief Roger Esparza, FRPPG Chairperson)



Agenda Item # 2

To: RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - Election Officers

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed

Approve and authorize the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group to elect the FY 2028 Officers; positions - **Chair and Vice-Chair**. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)

OFFICERS. The Planning Group will have a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to serve as its Officers. **The Planning Group shall appoint members of the Planning Group** to serve as the Planning Group Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson will preside over all meetings of the FRPPG and will be the representative of the FRPPG in all matters. The Vice-Chairperson will perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence. If the Vice-Chairperson is not available to perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence, the Chairperson may appoint a pro-tem Chairperson to preside in the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson's absence. In the event of the Chairperson seat becoming vacant during office due to the reasons set forth in Paragraph VI, the seat will be filled by the Vice-Chairperson. In the event of the Vice-Chairperson seat becoming vacant due to the reasons specified in Paragraph VI, the seat shall be voted by the Planning Group Members. A RIOCOG staff member will serve as the Secretary of the Planning Group but shall have no vote. The RIOCOG President can serve on the Planning Group in an ex-officio capacity and shall have no vote.

Planning Group Members include:

Name	Entity	Position
The Honorable Ricardo Samaniego	El Paso County	County Judge
The Honorable Joanna Mackenzie	Hudspeth County	County Judge
The Honorable Carlos Urias	Culberson County	County Judge
The Honorable Curtis Evans	Jeff Davis County	County Judge



The Honorable Jose Portillo	Presidio County	County Judge
The Honorable Greg P. Henington	Brewster County	County Judge
Fire Chief Steve Cordova	YDSP	First Responders Representative
Josue Garcia	YDSP	Emergency Management Coordinator
Chief of Police Peter Pacillas	City of El Paso Police Department	Chief of Police
The Honorable Oscar Ugarte	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	El Paso County Sheriff
Fire Chief Jonathan Killings	City of El Paso	Fire Chief
Battalion Chief Armando Valencia	Office of Emergency Management City/County of El Paso	Emergency Management Coordinator
Ms. Lydia Camacho, BSN, RN	UMC	Trauma Service Coordinator
The Honorable Oscar Carrillo	Law Enforcement	Culberson County Sheriff
Ms. Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN	BorderRAC	Executive Director
Chief of Police Clifton C. Walsh	University of Texas at El Paso	Chief of Police



Agenda Item # 3

To: RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - Bylaws

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed

Approve and authorize the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group to amend the FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group Bylaws. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



First Responders Preparedness Planning Group Bylaws

- I. **NAME.** The Planning Group shall be known as the Rio Grande Council of Governments First Responders Preparedness Planning Group (FRPPG) and herein is also referred to as the Planning Group.
- II. **AUTHORITY & PURPOSE.** The Planning Group is created under the authority of the by-laws of the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RIOCOC) and is created in compliance with the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grants Division (OOG-HSGD). The Planning Group shall advise the RIOCOC Board of Directors on all matters relating to regional and local emergency preparedness plans and programs in the six-county area of: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio, along with the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe. The Planning Group reserves the right to appoint such sub-committees as are necessary to accomplish these duties.
- III. **PLANNING GROUP SCOPE & RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Planning Group will analyze gaps in services, establish priorities and goals, comment on proposed projects and grant applications concerning the State Homeland Security Grants Program (SHSGP) and evaluate the effectiveness of activities for the management of HSGD in the six-county region. The Planning Group's recommendations will be presented to the RIOCOC Board of Directors.

Specifically, the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group will:

1. Serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of common area wide issues relating to homeland security and/or emergency preparedness
2. Evaluate the current systems to determine the needs of various groups, especially law enforcement, fire departments and emergency medical services, and emergency management coordinators
3. Anticipate the future needs of the six-county area and advise how to address and plan for those needs
4. Facilitate agreements and cooperative action proposal and plans among member jurisdictions for specific projects or other interrelated development needs and for the adoption of common policies and plans with response to common regional challenges

Administrative support will be provided to the Planning Group by staff members of the RIOCOC, including without limitation, facilitation of the Planning Group meetings, preparation of notices, agendas and maintenance of records, and designation of a staff member to serve as the Planning Group secretary. Technical Assistance will be provided to the Planning Group by staff members from both RIOCOC and HSGD.

- IV. **MEMBERSHIP.** The Planning Group will consist of participants who are knowledgeable about terrorism preparedness and the threats vulnerabilities and consequences relevant to the region. The Planning Group will have a varied participation including, but not limited to representation from various counties, municipalities, non-profit organizations, disciplines,



and/or other stakeholders from within the region. The Planning Group will be composed of two categories of members as set forth below. The Planning Group may recommend for appointment such persons as the Planning Group may deem appropriate. Planning Group members will be subject to the approval of the RIOCOG Board of Directors.

1. **VOTING MEMBERS.** Voting members will consist of the following individuals or their authorized designee:
 - a. Chief of Police for the El Paso Police Department
 - b. Chief of the El Paso Fire Department
 - c. El Paso County Sheriff
 - d. Coordinator to the Office of Emergency Management of the City/County of El Paso
 - e. Trauma Clinical Coordinator for the University Medical Center
 - f. El Paso County Judge
 - g. Hudspeth County Judge
 - h. Culberson County Judge
 - i. Jeff Davis County Judge
 - j. Presidio County Judge
 - k. Brewster County Judge
 - l. Emergency Management Coordinator for the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
 - m. Ysleta del Sur Pueblo First Responders Representative
 - n. Rural First Responder Representative for Culberson & Hudspeth Counties
 - o. Rural First Responder Representative for Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Brewster Counties
 - p. Education Infrastructure

Each *Voting* member may designate a designee to act on their behalf for any scheduled meeting, provided such a designee is directly affiliated with the same entity being represented. The Voting member shall provide written authorization of their designee to serve as their proxy when a meeting is called to order. Designees will possess all privileges and powers of the Voting member they represent for the duration of the meeting.

2. **NON-VOTING MEMBERS.** Non-voting members will consist of:

- a. Captain for the Department of Public Safety Disaster District 4
- b. District Chief for Disaster District 8 for the Texas Division Emergency Management
- c. Assistant Chief Region 7, Texas Division of Emergency Management
- d. President of the RIOCOG Board of Directors

- V. **MEMBERSHIP TERM.** The term of membership will be for one (1) year. Membership will be reviewed by the RIOCOG Board of Directors every year to ensure the direction and focus for the region is maintained.
- VI. **MEMBER REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION.** Any member or his/her appointed alternate who fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Planning Group, without having notified the Chairperson prior to the meeting, may be removed as a member of the Planning



Group. Members of the Planning Group may be subject to removal by the RIOCOG Board of Directors as a result of the death, incapacity, resignation, retirement, removal of position (office) for ethical misconduct, lack of attendance or participation or for any other reason deemed appropriate by the RIOCOG Board of Directors or as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws. Misconduct is defined as engaging in activity that violates local, state or federal laws in a manner that impacts the reputation or operations of the Planning Group or the RIOCOG. Members of the Planning Group may resign at any time upon written notice to the RIOCOG Executive Director.

- VII. **OFFICERS**. The Planning Group will have a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to serve as its Officers. The Planning Group shall appoint members of the Planning Group to serve as the Planning Group Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, with the approval of the RIOCOG Board of Directors. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not be Officers of the RIOCOG Board of Directors. Additionally, neither the Chairperson and Vice-Chair may act or serve as an Officer of the Planning Group through a designee. The Chairperson will preside over all meetings of the FRPPG and will be the representative of the FRPPG in all matters. The Vice-Chairperson will perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence. If the Vice-Chairperson is not available to perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence, the Chairperson may appoint a pro-tem Chairperson to preside in the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson's absence. In the event of the Chairperson seat becoming vacant during office due to the reasons set forth in Paragraph VI, the seat will be filled by the Vice-Chairperson. In the event of the Vice-Chairperson seat becoming vacant due to the reasons specified in Paragraph VI, the seat shall be voted by the Planning Group Members. A RIOCOG staff member will serve as the Secretary of the Planning Group but shall have no vote. The RIOCOG President can serve on the Planning Group in an ex-officio capacity and shall have no vote.
- VIII. **MEETINGS**. The Planning Group will meet, as determined by the Chairperson, at the offices of the RIOCOG. Notice of meetings will be sent electronically or mailed at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. For the purpose of transacting business, a quorum will consist of a minimum of eleven (11) of the total voting membership of the Planning Group. In the event of a tie, the action item will be taken by the Chairperson to a subsequent RIOCOG Board of Directors meeting for a tie-breaker vote.
- IX. **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE & MEETING DECORUM**. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Planning Group in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Planning Group may adopt. The presiding Officer at each Planning Group meeting shall preserve strict order and decorum at all regular and special meetings in compliance with Roberts' Rules of Order. All questions on matters of procedures shall be referred to the RIOCOG Executive Director, or his or her designee.
- X. **AMENDMENTS**. These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting by the Planning Group provided the recommended Bylaws changes sent to each Planning Group Member via electronic mail or United States mail no less than (5) days prior to the meeting where such



changes are to be considered. Bylaw changes will be submitted to the RIOCOG Board of Directors for ratification.

- XI. TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT COMPLIANCE.** The Planning Group undertakes to substantially comply with the posting requirements of the Texas Open Meeting Act. Executive sessions shall not be permitted under this authority.
- XII. RECORDS.** The Planning Group Secretary or his or her designee shall keep or cause to be kept adequate minutes of all Planning Group meetings reflecting, at a minimum, the names of those in attendance, any resolutions passed, and the outcomes of any votes taken.
- XIII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** The RIOCOG shall ensure that members of the RIOCOG's governing body, the Planning Group, and RIOCOG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application, other than a grant application submitted by the RIOCOG, during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:
- a. Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
 - b. Serves on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
 - c. Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency; or
 - d. Receives any funds or a substantial amount of tangible goods, or services from the applicant agency, if awarded.

If a member has a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application, the RIOCOG will ensure that the member abstains from voting, commenting, or otherwise influencing the prioritization process for that application.

In the event a conflict of interest is apparent prior to any scheduled meeting, members shall promptly disclose the conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest in advance of or at the meeting to the Chairperson or RIOCOG Executive Director. Any member having a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest and who is in attendance at such meeting shall disclose all facts material to the conflict of interest. Such disclosure shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. A member who has a conflict of interest shall not participate in or be permitted to hear the discussion of the matter except to disclose material facts and to respond to questions. A member who has a conflict of interest with respect to a contract or transaction that will be voted on at a meeting shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum for purposes of the vote. The member having a conflict of interest may not vote on the contract or transaction and shall not be present in the meeting room when the vote is taken. Such person's ineligibility to vote shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.



If any applicant, Planning Group member, RIOCOC personnel or other individual has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of Public Safety Office (PSO)/HSGD project, the RIOCOC shall ensure that the concerns are shared with PSO/HSGD as soon as possible.

Amended text was adopted by the RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group on October 21, 2026.

Chairperson

Amended text ratified by the RIOCOC Board of Directors on November 6, 2026

Honorable Lily Limón, President



Agenda Item # 4

To: RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - FY 2028 FRPPG Membership

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed

Approve and authorize the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group to approve the FY 2028 FRPPG membership. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)

MEMBERSHIP TERM. The term of membership will be for one (1) year. Membership will be reviewed by the RIOCOC Board of Directors every year to ensure the direction and focus for the region is maintained.

Rio Grande Council of Governments
First Responders Preparedness Planning Group (FRPPG)

COUNTY JUDGES

Name	Entity	Position
The Honorable Ricardo Samaniego	El Paso County	County Judge
The Honorable Joanna Mackenzie	Hudspeth County	County Judge
The Honorable Carlos Urias	Culberson County	County Judge
The Honorable Curtis Evans	Jeff Davis County	County Judge
The Honorable Jose Portillo	Presidio County	County Judge
The Honorable Greg P. Henington	Brewster County	County Judge

YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO REPRESENTATIVES

Name	Entity	Position
Fire Chief Steve Cordova	YDSP	First Responders Representative
Josue Garcia	YDSP	Emergency Management Coordinator

EL PASO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Name	Entity	Position
Chief of Police Peter Pacillas	City of El Paso Police Department	Chief of Police

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF

Name	Entity	Position
The Honorable Oscar Ugarte	El Paso County Sheriff's Office	El Paso County Sheriff

EL PASO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Name	Entity	Position
Fire Chief Jonathan Killings	City of El Paso	Fire Chief

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT of the CITY/COUNTY OF EL PASO

Name	Entity	Position
Battalion Chief Armando Valencia	Office of Emergency Management El Paso City/County of El Paso	Emergency Management Coordinator

TRAUMA CLINICAL COORDINATOR for the UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Name	Entity	Position
Ms. Lydia Camacho, BSN, RN	UMC	Trauma Service Coordinator

RURAL FIRST RESPONDER REPRESENTATIVE for CULBERSON & HUDSPETH COUNTIES

Name	Entity	Position
The Honorable Oscar Carrillo	Law Enforcement	Culberson County Sheriff

RURAL FIRST RESPONDER REPRESENTATIVE for JEFF DAVIS, PRESIDIO, & BREWSTER COUNTIES

Name	Entity	Position
Vacant		

TRAUMA SERVICE AREA I

Name	Entity	Position
Ms. Wanda Helgesen, RN, MSN	BorderRAC	Executive Director

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Name	Entity	Position
Chief of Police Clifton C. Walsh	University of Texas at El Paso	Chief of Police

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Name	Entity	Position
Ms. Georgina Gonzalez	Texas Division of Emergency Management Disaster District 8	Disaster District Chairman (DDC)
Mr. David Marquez	Texas Division of Emergency Management	Assistant Chief Region 7



Agenda Item # 5

To: RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - FY 2028 Scoring Instrument(s)

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed

Approve and authorize the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group to adopt a new scoring instrument(s). (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

FY 2028 Application Score Sheet

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program \$	Date:	
Total Score:			
<i>If you have a conflict of interest you are exempt from scoring or commenting on this and any other application for this funding opportunity.</i>			
Question		Max Points	Score
Total points that can be allocated to each question is from 1-10 An applicant can receive up to 100 points			
PROJECT INFORMATION (40 Points)			
1	The project enhances the ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and/or recover from acts of terrorism.	10	
2	The project identifies and describes the threats and hazards that create the need for the project based on the region's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.	10	
3	The project addresses building and sustaining NIMS Typed Resources.	10	
4	The project is identified as a regional priority. • Combating domestic Violent Extremism - • Community Preparedness & Resilience - • Protection of Soft Targets & Crowded Places - • Information and Intelligence Sharing and Cooperation - • Enhancing Election Security - • Enhancing Cybersecurity - • Interoperable communications • Specialized Teams • Capability Sustainment • Personnel Funding	10	
PROJECT CORE CAPABILITIES (20 Points)			
5	The project identifies the core capability gap(s) listed in the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR).	10	
6	The implementation of this project reduces the capability gap(s) listed in the SPR.	10	
CAPABILITY AND SUSTAINMENT (20 points)			
7	The project creates a new capability or sustains an existing capability.	10	
8	The project provides a long-term approach to the sustaining of new or current capabilities developed by the project.	10	
PROJECT OUTCOME (20 points)			
9	The project's goals, objectives and activities indicate this project will be successful. (e.g. specific, measureable, attainable, relevant, and time-based)	10	
10	The project's funding and budget line items will adequately accomplish the stated goals of the project.	10	
Application Prioritization Process			
11	If the application is recommended for funding that is less than what is being requested, can the project still be implemented?	Yes/No	
12	Non-Attendance: Mandatory Application Workshop	(Deduction of 5 points)	

Member Voting Agreement

I, as a member of the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group, hereby agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness, without duress or influence from external parties. I further agree that all comments and scores are my own. I agree that I understand the bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process of this Group and agree to the requirements established by the Public Safety office – Homeland Security Grant Division Office of the Governor.

Printed Name and Signature of Committee Member

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2016 Application Score Sheet

☐

Check If Exempt

Reason:

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

Project Information (40 Points)				
1	Question	Criteria	Score	Explanations
	Did the applicant provide information on enhancing the ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and/or recover from acts of terrorism?	The applicant must identify terrorism related threats, risks, or vulnerabilities.	0	The applicant did not provide a description that addresses terrorism preparedness or how the project enhances capabilities.
			1-3	The applicant provided some supporting information by lacked specificity, measurable outcomes, or a strong nexus to terrorism preparedness.
			4-7	The applicant provided substantial information on how the project improves terrorism related capabilities, identifies relevant risk or operational needs.
			8-10	The applicant clearly and comprehensively demonstrates how the project will significantly enhance one or more terrorism related capabilities (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, or recovery).
		Subtotal Score		
2	Does the project identify and describe the threats and hazards that	Whether specific THIRA identified threats and hazards cited?	0	The applicant did not identify threats or hazards. No reference was made to the regional THIRA.

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

	create the need for the project based on the region's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA).		1-3	The applicant references threats or hazards that generally align with the regional THIRA.
			4-7	The applicant identified relevant threats and hazards from the regional THIRA.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies specific threats and hazards documented in the regional THIRA.
		Subtotal Score		
3	Does the project address building and sustaining NIMS Typed Resources?	Whether the project identifies specific NIMS Typed Resources?	0	The applicant did not identify a NIMS Typed Resource.
			1-3	The applicant provided limited details regarding typing requirements or credentialing.
			4-7	The applicant demonstrated an alignment with NIMS Resource typing standards.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies specific NIMS Typed Resources or demonstrated a strong alignment with NIMS resource typing standards and national preparedness objectives.
		Subtotal Score		

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

4	Is the project identified as a regional priority?	Whether the project is identified in regional planning documents, THIRA/SPR or homeland security priorities?	0	The applicant does not demonstrate that the project is a regional priority.
			1-3	The applicant's project aligns with regional goals, priorities, or preparedness objectives. Some regional benefits are evident; however, documentation or stakeholder support is limited. The project may primarily benefit a single jurisdiction while providing some border regional value.
			4-7	The applicant's project identifies a regional priority. Demonstrates regional benefit beyond a single jurisdiction. Provides evidence of collaboration and addresses an important regional need.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies the regional priority. Demonstrates board support from multiple jurisdictions, agencies, disciplines, of stakeholders. Provided evidence of regional coordination, and impact.
		Subtotal Score		

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

Project Core Capabilities (20 Points)				
5	The project identifies the core capability gap(s) listed in the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR).	Did the applicant identify a specific Core Capability referenced a capability gap documented in the Stakeholders Preparedness Review (SPR)?	0	The applicant did not identify any SPR core capability gaps or fails to demonstrate any connection between the project and the SPR.
			1-3	The applicant references a capability gap that aligns but provides limited detail regarding how the project will address the gap.
			4-7	The applicant identified a core capability gap included in the SPR and explained how the project will address the gap.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies a core capability gap documented in the SPR and explains how the project addresses or reduces the gap.
		Subtotal Score		
6	The implementation of this project reduces the capability gap(s) listed in the SPR.	Did the applicant directly align with a SPR identified capability gap or demonstrate a regional impact and operational improvements?	0	The applicant does not identify a SPR capability gap or fails to demonstrate any relationship between project implementation and reducing those gaps.
			1-3	The applicant generally addresses an SPR capability gap but provides limited

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

				detail on how implementation will reduce the gap.
			4-7	The applicant identifies an SPR capability gap and adequately explains how the project will reduce the gap.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies a specific capability gap from the SPR and demonstrates a direct and significant reduction of the gap.
		Subtotal Score		
Capability and Sustainment (20 points)				
7	The project creates a new capability or sustains an existing capability.	Did the applicant establish a capability that does not currently exist or demonstrate an enhancement operational effectiveness capacity, interoperability, or resilience or supports regional, multi-jurisdictional, or statewide preparedness priorities.	0	The applicant did not demonstrate the creation of a new capability or sustainment of an existing capability.
			1-3	The applicant demonstrates a minimal impact on creating or sustaining capability.
			4-7	The applicant supports an existing capability, contributes to the development of sustainment of a capability.
			8-10	The applicant clearly creates a critical new capability or significantly sustains and enhances an existing capability.

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$		Total

8	The project provides a long-term approach to sustaining new or current capabilities developed by the project.	Did the applicant identify future funding sources or organizational support, including plans for equipment replacement, maintenance.	0	The applicant did not demonstrate a sustainment plan or fails to demonstrate how the capability will be maintained after project completion.
			1-3	The applicant's sustainment plan was minimally addressed.
			4-7	The applicant provides a sustainment plan but lacks detail in one or more areas such as funding, staffing, training or maintenance.
			8-10	The applicant provides a well-documented sustainment plan, identifying, funding, staffing, training, and maintenance.
		Subtotal Score		
Project Outcome (20 Points)				
9	The project's goals, objectives and activities indicate this project will be successful. (e.g. specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-based)	Did the applicant define clear and achievable goals, align activities with the stated goals and outcomes.	0	The applicant did not define clear and achievable goals.
			1-3	The applicant's defines goals, objectives, and activities are vague or poorly developed.
			4-7	The applicant's defines goals and objectives are adequately described and

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

				reasonable likelihood of project success.
			8-10	The applicant's goals, objectives, and activities are clearly defined and fully aligned including project success upon completion.
10	The project's funding and budget line items will adequately accomplish the stated goals of the project.	Did the applicant's budget line items directly support the project goals, objectives, and activities. Are the costs reasonable, necessary, and allowable?	0	The applicant's budget information is incomplete or poorly justified.
			1-3	The applicant's budget demonstrates weak alignment with the project goals.
			4-7	The applicant's budget is well-developed and generally aligns with project goals and activities.
			8-10	The applicant's budget is detailed, reasonable, and directly aligns with the project's goals, objectives, and activities. Costs are appropriate, cost effective and clearly support the project.
		Subtotal Score		

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

Application Prioritization Process			
	If the application is recommended for funding that is less than is being requested, can the project still be implemented?	Yes	
		No	
	Non-Attendance: Mandatory Application Workshop	(Deduction of 5 points)	
Total Score			

Member Voting Agreement

I, as a member of the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group, hereby agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness, without duress or influence from external parties. I further agree that all comments and scores are my own. I agree that I understand the bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process of this Group and agree to the requirements established by the Public Safety Office – Homeland Security Grant Division Office of the Governor.

Printed Name and Signature of Committee Member

☐

Check If Exempt

Reason:

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

Project Summary				
	Question	Criteria	Score	Explanations
1	What are you requesting this Homeland Security Grant Program application (HSGP) for?	Did the applicant provide a summary of what they intend to do with the funds being requested.	0	The applicant does not provide sufficient information to evaluate the project, no clear purpose, objectives, or anticipated outcomes were identified. No mission area and core capability identified. There is no Nexus to terrorism described.
		Mission area and Core Capability - The summary should focus on how the project will affect prevention, protection, mitigation, response and/or recovery from terrorism events. The core capability should also be noted.	1-3	The applicant project summary was vague or lacked important details regarding objectives, activities, or expected outcomes. Minimal mission area and core capability identified and minimal Nexus to terrorism described.
		Nexus to Terrorism - The purpose of projects funded through HSGP grants must specifically connect to terrorism, not natural disasters. While the project may serve both purposes, the primary	4-7	The applicant provides a detailed project summary with a clear description of activities and intended outcomes. Limited mission area and core capability identified and limited Nexus to terrorism described.
			8-10	The applicant provides a clear, comprehensive and well-organized project summary, clearly identifies the

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

		purpose for the grant must be terrorism related.		problem, capability gap, or operational need been addressed. Clearly describes the mission area and core capability identified and a Nexus to terrorism described.
		Subtotal Score		
Problem Statement				
2	Why is this project necessary to address acts of terrorism and where is that referenced in the RIOCOC's regional THIRA?	Terrorism Threat - Did the applicant briefly describe what terrorism threats this project will address and how. Since this is an anti-terrorism grant you must reference a corresponding threat related to terrorism in the Applicant's regional THIRA. This statement should focus on the terrorism threats the project will address.	0	The applicant does not explain how the project addresses acts of terrorism and does not address its reference in RIOCOC's regional THIRA.
			1-3	The applicant provides minimal explanation of how the project addresses terrorism related needs but addresses its references in the RIOCOC's regional THIRA.
			4-7	The applicant clearly explains how the project supports terrorism preparedness and response capabilities and addresses its reference in the RIOCOC's regional THIRA.
			8-10	The applicant clearly demonstrates a direct nexus between the project and terrorism prevention, prevention,

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
			Total
	\$		

				mitigation, response, and/or recovery capabilities and identifies the specific page reference in the RIOCOG's regional THIRA.
		Subtotal Score		
Existing Capabilities Levels				
3	What capabilities do you currently have in place to address the "Threat"? In other words, what capabilities do we currently have?	Capabilities Addressed – Did the applicant describe what capability will the project enhance, replace, or build upon?	0	The applicant did not describe current capabilities.
			1-3	The applicant provides minimal information regarding current capabilities.
			4-7	The applicant describes most existing capabilities and resources available to address the identified threat. Demonstrates a solid understanding of current preparedness levels and identifies some remaining gaps.
			8-10	The applicant provides a comprehensive description of existing capabilities, resources, programs, personnel, equipment, training, plans, and partnerships currently used to address the identified threat. Clearly identify current capabilities using recognized frameworks such as FEMA Core Capabilities, NIMS Typed

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

				Resources, Emergency Operations Plans, mutual aid agreements, intelligence-sharing networks, or interoperable communications systems.
		Subtotal Score		
Capability Gaps				
4	What Capability Gap will this project address and what and where is this Gap identified in the RIOCOC's regional SPR?	Gap Description – Did the applicant provide a description of specific gaps the project will address and their connection with gaps discussed in the RIOCOC's regional Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR).	0	The applicant did not identify any SPR core capability gaps or failed to demonstrate any connection between the project and the RIOCOC's regional SPR.
			1-3	The applicant references a capability gap that aligns but provides limited detail regarding how the project will address the gap as identified in the RIOCOC's regional SPR..
			4-7	The applicant identified a core capability gap included in the RIOCOC's regional SPR and explained how the project will address the gap.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies a core capability gap documented in the RIOCOC's regional SPR and explains how the project addresses or reduces the gap.

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$		Total

		Subtotal Score		
Impact Statement				
5	Once the HSGP project is completed, what will be the impact in relation to terrorism?	Project purpose – Did the applicant describe what will the completed project accomplish in relation to terrorism?	0	The applicant did not describe how the completed HSGP project relates to terrorism or provide any identifiable terrorism related benefit.
			1-3	The applicant makes limited reference to terrorism or homeland security benefits.
			4-7	The applicant adequately describes the HSGP project's terrorism related accomplishments and expected outcomes. The connection to terrorism preparedness or response is clear but lacks detailed performance measures or comprehensive discussion of capability improvements.
			8-10	The applicant clearly and comprehensively describes how the completed HSGP project enhances the jurisdiction's ability to prevent protect against, mitigate, respond to, or recover from acts of terrorism.

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

		Subtotal Score		
Homeland Security Priority Action				
6	Which priority action from the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan does this project align with most closely?	Homeland Security Priority Action – Did the applicant include the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority that most accurately ties to the project. Please use the following format: "1.2.3 Expand and enhance the network of human sources that can provide detailed and relevant information on known or suspected terrorist and criminal enterprises."	0	The applicant does not identify a Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority, or the priority identified has no apparent connection to the proposed project.
			1-3	The applicant references a Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority, but the connection to the project is weak, unclear, or lacks sufficient supporting information.
			4-7	The applicant identifies an appropriate Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority and provides a reasonable explanation of the project's alignment. The connection is clear but lacks detailed justification or discussion of expected outcomes.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies the most appropriate Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority and provides a thorough explanation of how the project directly supports the priority's goals,

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

				objectives, and desired outcomes. The alignment is specific, well-justified, and clearly demonstrated throughout the application.
		Subtotal Score		
Target Group				
7	Which group, team, agency or department will have their capabilities enhanced upon the completion of the project?	Target Group – Did the applicant identify the actual group that will be receiving equipment, training, or salaries funded by the project. For example, if a grant is purchasing equipment for a specialized team, the specialized team is the target group.	0	The applicant does not identify the individuals, groups, agencies, departments, or personnel that will receive the equipment, training, or personnel support funded by the project.
			1-3	The applicant provides a vague description of the target group. The intended beneficiaries can be inferred but are not clearly identified.
			4-7	The applicant identifies the target group and describes how they will benefit from the equipment, training, or personnel support. Minor details regarding the specific target group may be lacking.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies the specific agency, department, discipline, unit, team, or personnel that will directly receive the equipment, training,

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

				or personnel support. The applicant provides sufficient detail regarding the target group and explains how they will utilize the funded resources to enhance capabilities and achieve project objectives.
		Subtotal Score		
Long-Term Approach				
8	How will the activities being funded be sustained once grant funding ends?	Did the applicant describe how they will sustain the capabilities supported by this project without additional federal or state funds?	0	The applicant does not address sustainability or relies entirely on future federal or state grant funding to maintain the capability.
			1-3	The applicant provides a limited sustainability discussion. The intent to sustain the capability is stated, but little evidence or supporting information is provided to demonstrate feasibility.
			4-7	The applicant provides a clear sustainability strategy and identifies likely funding or organizational resources to support continued operations. Most key sustainment elements are addressed, but some details are limited.

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	\$	Total	

			8-10	The applicant provides a comprehensive sustainability plan that clearly explains how the capability will be maintained after grant funding ends. The plan identifies specific local funding sources, staffing commitments, maintenance strategies, replacement schedules, training plans, and operational support mechanisms. The approach demonstrates a high likelihood of long-term sustainability without reliance on future federal or state grant funding.
		Subtotal Score		

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY 2028 (HSGP 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program	Date:	
	Total		

Application Prioritization Process			
	If the application is recommended for funding that is less than is being requested, can the project still be implemented?	Yes	
		No	
	Non-Attendance: Mandatory Application Workshop	(Deduction of 5 points)	
Total Score			

Member Voting Agreement

I, as a member of the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group, hereby agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness, without duress or influence from external parties. I further agree that all comments and scores are my own. I agree that I understand the bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process of this Group and agree to the requirements established by the Public Safety Office – Homeland Security Grant Division Office of the Governor.

Printed Name and Signature of Committee Member

☐

Check If Exempt

Reason:

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
	\$	Total	

Project Summary				
	Question	Criteria	Score	Explanations
1	What are you requesting this Homeland Security Grant Program application (HSGP) for?	Did the applicant provide a summary of what they intend to do with the funds being requested. LETPA Mission area and Core Capability - LETPA projects may only choose from the protection and prevention mission areas and those allowable core capabilities as defined by FEMA. Nexus to Terrorism - The purpose of projects funded through HSGP grants must specifically connect to terrorism, not natural disasters. While the project may serve both purposes, the primary	0	The applicant does not provide sufficient information to evaluate the project, no clear purpose, objectives, or anticipated outcomes were identified. No LETPA mission area and core capability identified. There is no Nexus to terrorism described or NIMS Typed Resources identified.
			1-3	The applicant project summary was vague or lacked important details regarding objectives, activities, or expected outcomes. Minimal LETPA mission area and core capability identified or minimal Nexus to terrorism described, or NIMS Typed Resources identified.
			4-7	The applicant provides a detailed project summary with a clear description of activities and intended outcomes. Limited LETPA mission area and core capability identified or limited Nexus to

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
Jurisdiction: Project Title:			
Point of Contact:			
Amount Requested:			
	\$	Total	

		purpose for the grant must be terrorism related.		terrorism described, or NIMS Typed Resources identified.
		Will this support a NIMS Typed Response Team?	8-10	The applicant provides a clear, comprehensive and well-organized project summary, clearly identifies the problem, capability gap, or operational need been addressed. Clearly describes the LETPA mission area and core capability identified, a Nexus to terrorism described, and NIMS Typed Resources identified.
		Subtotal Score		
Problem Statement				
2	Why is this project necessary to address acts of terrorism and where is that referenced in the RIOCOG's regional THIRA?	Terrorism Threat - Did the applicant briefly describe what terrorism threats this project will address and how.	0	The applicant does not explain how the project addresses acts of terrorism and does not address its reference in RIOCOG's regional THIRA.
		THIRA Reference - Must include reference to the regional THIRA to include page numbers.	1-3	The applicant provides minimal explanation of how the project addresses terrorism related needs but addresses its references in the RIOCOG's regional THIRA.
			4-7	The applicant clearly explains how the project supports terrorism

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
Jurisdiction: Project Title:			
Point of Contact:			
Amount Requested:			
	\$	Total	

		Since this is an anti-terrorism grant you must reference a corresponding threat related to terrorism in the Applicant's regional THIRA. This statement should focus on the terrorism threats the project will address.		preparedness and response capabilities and addresses its reference in the RIOCOC's regional THIRA.
			8-10	The applicant clearly demonstrates a direct nexus between the project and terrorism prevention, prevention, mitigation, response, and/or recovery capabilities and identifies the specific page reference in the RIOCOC's regional THIRA.
		Subtotal Score		

Existing Capabilities Levels

3	What capabilities do you currently have in place to address the "Threat"? In other words, what capabilities do we currently have?	Capabilities Addressed – Did the applicant describe what capability will the project enhance, replace, or build upon? Existing Resources - What existing resources will support the project?	0 1-3 4-7 8-10	The applicant did not describe current capabilities or existing resources. The applicant provides minimal information regarding current capabilities or existing resources. The applicant describes most existing capabilities and resources available to address the identified threat. Demonstrates a solid understanding of current preparedness levels and identifies some remaining gaps. The applicant provides a comprehensive description of existing capabilities,
----------	--	--	--	---

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
Jurisdiction: Project Title:			
Point of Contact:			
Amount Requested:			
	\$	Total	

				resources, programs, personnel, equipment, training, plans, and partnerships currently used to address the identified threat. Clearly identify current capabilities using recognized frameworks such as FEMA Core Capabilities, NIMS Typed Resources, Emergency Operations Plans, mutual aid agreements, intelligence-sharing networks, or interoperable communications systems.
		Subtotal Score		
Capability Gaps				
4	What Capability Gap will this project address and what and where is this Gap identified in the RIOCOG's regional SPR?	Gap Description – Did the applicant provide a description of specific gaps the project will address and their connection with gaps discussed in the RIOCOG's regional Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR). SPR Reference - Reference the gap as identified in the	0	The applicant did not identify any SPR core capability gaps or failed to demonstrate any connection between the project and the RIOCOG's regional SPR.
			1-3	The applicant references a capability gap that aligns but provides limited detail regarding how the project will address the gap as identified in the RIOCOG's regional SPR..
			4-7	The applicant identified a core capability gap included in the RIOCOG's

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA		Date:	
	\$		Total	

		RIOCOG's regional SPR by providing page number(s).		regional SPR and explained how the project will address the gap.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies a core capability gap documented in the RIOCOG's regional SPR and explains how the project addresses or reduces the gap.
		Subtotal Score		

Impact Statement

5	Once the HSGP project is completed, what will be the impact in relation to terrorism?	Project purpose – Did the applicant describe what will the completed project accomplish in relation to terrorism?	0	The applicant did not describe how the completed HSGP project relates to terrorism or provide any identifiable terrorism related benefit.
			1-3	The applicant makes limited reference to terrorism or homeland security benefits.
			4-7	The applicant adequately describes the HSGP project's terrorism related accomplishments and expected outcomes. The connection to terrorism preparedness or response is clear but lacks detailed performance measures

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA 	Date:	
		Total	

				or comprehensive discussion of capability improvements.
			8-10	The applicant clearly and comprehensively describes how the completed HSGP project enhances the jurisdiction's ability to prevent protect against, mitigate, respond to, or recover from acts of terrorism.
		Subtotal Score		
Homeland Security Priority Action				
6	Which priority action from the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan does this project align with most closely?	Homeland Security Priority Action – Did the applicant include the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority that most accurately ties to the project. Please use the following format: "1.2.3 Expand and enhance the network of human sources that can provide detailed and relevant information on known	0	The applicant does not identify a Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority, or the priority identified has no apparent connection to the proposed project.
			1-3	The applicant references a Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority, but the connection to the project is weak, unclear, or lacks sufficient supporting information.
			4-7	The applicant identifies an appropriate Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority and provides a reasonable explanation of the project's alignment.

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
Jurisdiction: Project Title:			
Point of Contact:			
Amount Requested:			
	\$	Total	

		or suspected terrorist and criminal enterprises."		The connection is clear but lacks detailed justification or discussion of expected outcomes.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies the most appropriate Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan priority and provides a thorough explanation of how the project directly supports the priority's goals, objectives, and desired outcomes. The alignment is specific, well-justified, and clearly demonstrated throughout the application.
		Subtotal Score		
Target Group				
7	Which group, team, agency or department will have their capabilities enhanced upon the completion of the project?	Target Group – Did the applicant identify the actual group that will be receiving equipment, training, or salaries funded by the project. Population - The population this project will primarily benefit. (City, County, Region)	0	The applicant does not identify the population that the HSGP – LETPA will primarily benefit, individuals, groups, agencies, departments, or personnel that will receive the equipment, training, or personnel support funded by the project.
			1-3	The applicant provides a vague description of the target group including the population that the HSGP – LETPA will

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
Jurisdiction: Project Title:			
Point of Contact:			
Amount Requested:			
	\$	Total	

		For example, if a grant is purchasing equipment for a specialized team, the specialized team is the target group.		primarily benefit. The intended beneficiaries can be inferred but are not clearly identified.
			4-7	The applicant identifies the population that the HSGP – LETPA will primarily benefit, target group and describes how they will benefit from the equipment, training, or personnel support. Minor details regarding the specific population or target group may be lacking.
			8-10	The applicant clearly identifies the population that the HSGP – LETPA will primarily benefit, specific agency, department, discipline, unit, team, or personnel that will directly receive the equipment, training, or personnel support. The applicant provides sufficient detail regarding the target group and explains how they will utilize the funded resources to enhance capabilities and achieve project objectives.
		Subtotal Score		

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
	\$		Total

Long-Term Approach				
8	How will the activities being funded be sustained once grant funding ends?	Did the applicant describe how they will sustain the capabilities supported by this project without additional federal or state funds? If sustainment is dependent upon federal or state grants, describe the ongoing need for future grants, as applicable.	0	The applicant does not address sustainability or relies entirely on future federal or state grant funding to maintain the capability.
			1-3	The applicant provides a limited sustainability discussion. The intent to sustain the capability is stated, but little evidence or supporting information is provided to demonstrate feasibility.
			4-7	The applicant provides a clear sustainability strategy and identifies likely funding or organizational resources to support continued operations. Most key sustainment elements are addressed, but some details are limited.
			8-10	The applicant provides a comprehensive sustainability plan that clearly explains how the capability will be maintained after grant funding ends. The plan identifies specific local funding sources, staffing commitments, maintenance strategies, replacement schedules, training plans, and

**Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet**

Funding Opportunity: Applicant Jurisdiction: Project Title: Point of Contact: Amount Requested:	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA		Date:	
	\$		Total	

				operational support mechanisms. The approach demonstrates a high likelihood of long-term sustainability without reliance on future federal or state grant funding.
		Subtotal Score		
Application Prioritization Process				
	If the application is recommended for funding that is less than is being requested, can the project still be implemented?		Yes No	
	Non-Attendance: Mandatory Application Workshop	(Deduction of 5 points)		
Total Score				

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY 2028 (HSGP – LETPA 2027) Grant Application Score Sheet

Funding Opportunity: Applicant	Homeland Security Grant Program - LETPA	Date:	
Jurisdiction: Project Title:			
Point of Contact:			
Amount Requested:			
	\$	Total	

Member Voting Agreement

I, as a member of the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group, hereby agree that I have scored this application in honesty and fairness, without duress or influence from external parties. I further agree that all comments and scores are my own. I agree that I understand the bylaws, scoring practices, and funding process of this Group and agree to the requirements established by the Public Safety office – Homeland Security Grant Division Office of the Governor.

Printed Name and Signature of Committee Member

☐

Check If Exempt

Reason:



Agenda Item # 6

To: RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - FY 2028 FRPPG Policies/Procedures

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed

Approve and authorize the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group to amend the FY 2028 FRPPG Policies and Procedures. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)

RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

FORWARD

The following policies and procedures are established for the purpose of defining the rules and regulations that govern the Plan Year 2028 application process set forth by the Rio Grande Council of Governments, First Responders Preparedness Planning Group, herein referred to as the FRPPG, in regard to funding sources available through the Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) which include: State Homeland Security Program-Regular Projects (SHSP-R), State Homeland Security Program-LETPA Projects (SHSP-L) and any other funding streams directed by HSGD. All applications will be submitted to the Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division, which will determine eligibility. Thereafter the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RIOCOG) staff will be provided with copies of all eligible applications in order to be reviewed, scored and prioritized by the FRPPG. The FRPPG will provide grant priorities and recommendations to RIOCOG's Board of Directors for consideration before submitting its recommendations to HSGD for approval. All funding and application policies are subject to change as determined by HSGD.

I. APPLICANT POLICY STATEMENT

Project Ranking

- a. Applications will be ranked in order of highest to lowest as a result of the scoring process within each of the following funds:
 - ✓ State Homeland Security Program-Regular Projects (SHSP-R)
 - ✓ State Homeland Security Program-LETPA Projects (SHSP-L)
- b. The FRPPG will analyze the availability of funding resources from the prior funding year, and review priorities and goals for the six-county planning area of West Texas. For Plan Year 2028, the FRPPG will identify local priorities for each of the fund sources as they relate to terrorism issues. They are:
 - ✓ State Homeland Security Program-Regular Projects (SHSP-R)
 - ✓ State Homeland Security Program-LETPA Projects (SHSP-L)

The FRPPG's strategic mission as it relates to first responders issues is:

The mission of the Rio Grande Council of Governments First Responders Preparedness Planning Group is to provide Region 8 with a collaborative and coordinated representation of first responders' needs of the region to the Board of Directors and to the Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division for approval.

- c. Applicants are required to be present and provide a brief 10 minute presentation during the scheduled review of the application. Failure of applicant to be present will result in

Proposed Revisions
FRPPG Adopted
RIOCOG BOD Endorsed

their application not being scored or ranked for funding recommendation, unless a majority of the FRPPG finds good cause.

RIOCOG staff will notify each applicant of the scheduled date, tentative time and location in which the application will be reviewed, scored and prioritized.

II. Project Ranking Criteria

The COG shall implement the scoring instrument developed by FRPPG (see attached).

First Responders Preparedness Planning Group members may vote to disregard scoresheets and prioritize grant applications during the meeting.

The FRPPG's grant prioritization and recommendations shall be reviewed and endorsed by the RIOCOG Board of Directors. All FRPPG proceedings will be documented by: 1. Tape recordings, **AND** 2. Written minutes – certified by the signature of a FRPPG member who was in attendance.

III. Minimum and Maximum Score

Following procedures will be implemented provided that they are not inconsistent with the new State rating guidelines.

- a. No minimum score is required to be recommended for funding.
- b. **Maximum points 100.**
- c. High and low scores in each category will not be counted; this is an aggregated score.
- d. The funding sources included in this requirement are:
State Homeland Security Program-Regular Projects (SHSP-R) and State Homeland Security Program-LETPA Projects (SHSP-L).

A priority action for the FRPPG is regional and local planning. Planning facilitates the performance of response core capabilities during all hazards emergencies or other situations that may disrupt normal operations. Therefore, the FRPPG deems it appropriate to establish a planning funding "carve-out" of 12% from the FY 2028 SHSP Regional Budget Estimation (RBE). The planning applications will be ranked, scored, and prioritized separately from other FY 2028 HSGD applications. Exception: Whereas, the FRPPG deems it appropriate to fully fund the Rio Grande Council of Governments at 100% of the requested amount listed on the application for the FY 2026 RBE, separate and apart from the 12% "carve-out".

IV. Years of Funding, Sustainability, and Budget Exceptions

- a. Projects will be funded on a yearly basis.

- b. The FRPPG has developed a sustainability process that will allow for the implementation of new projects, while continuing to support regional SHSP priorities and current efforts made by existing programs. For the FY 2028 FRPPG planning process, continuation projects across all fund sources with the exception of SHSP-L, SHSP-R Planning Grants, and SHSP - MATRIX Fusion Center, can only apply for 90% of the total grant award received in FY 2026. Thereafter, continuation projects will continue to reduce their budgets by 10% each year for five years or up to a \$50,000 funding floor minimum.

Example:

Yr. 1	FY 2024	\$250,000 Grant Award Received
Yr. 2	FY 2025	\$225,000
Yr. 3	FY 2026	\$202,500
Yr. 4	FY 2027	\$182,250
Yr. 5	FY 2028	\$164,025

All new projects (non-continuation) are not impacted by the sustainment clause above unless the same project is applied for and awarded the following year. If a new applicant submits an application for an existing continuation project that was not funded in the previous year, applicant must explain how the project was financially maintained by the entity/agency.

- c. The FRPPG will analyze the availability of funding resources from previous funding year, and review local priorities and goals for the six-county planning area of West Texas. Upon the FRPPG's recommendations, RIOCOG staff will seek RIOCOG Board of Directors' approval and endorsement in regard to the FRPPG's recommendations. The RIOCOG Board of Directors reserves the right to endorse or disallow the FRPPG's recommendations.
- d. Budget Exceptions: The FRPPG reserves the right to recommend an amount less than the requested amount based on the budget cost effectiveness, reasonableness or whether the proposed project costs are realistic and previous performance under all funding sources.
- e. Budget Exceptions: The FRPPG reserves the right to decline to recommend funding on any application, ineligible activity or line item that is not permitted under the funding source. In the event that the FRPPG deems not to recommend full or partial funding of an application, RIOCOG staff will notify the Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division.

V. Additional Information and Strategic Plan Process

Proposed Revisions
FRPPG Adopted
RIOCOG BOD Endorsed

- a. Applicants are recommended to fully participate in the regional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholders Preparedness Review (SPR), and Implementation Plan (IP) planning groups for their service area.
- b. The RIOCOG staff will notify potential applicants and grantees of the scheduled workshop(s). The notification may be in the form of email, RIOCOG's website www.riocog.org and/or the Texas Register.

VI. Attendance Requirements In Reference to:

1. Application workshop:

All applicants are **required** to attend the RIOCOG's application workshop each grant cycle. The RIOCOG staff will notify potential applicants and grantees of the scheduled workshop(s) via email, RIOCOG's website www.riocog.org, and/or the Texas Register (www.sos.state.tx.us). All grant application workshop(s) will be conducted under the guidance of the PSO/OOG. Failure to attend the mandatory application workshop will result in a **five (5) point penalty** which will be assessed by the Committee when the application is scored. Current or first-time grantees that are unable to attend the application workshop shall be required to attend a technical assistance visit with the RIOCOG staff a minimum of ten (10) days prior to submitting the application to PSO/OOG.

2. The grant cycle begins September 1, 2027, and runs through August 31, 2028.

VII. Due Dates and Late Applications

- a. All applications must be submitted via eGrants located at <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov> as indicated in the Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division, website and application kit. The Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division determines whether a late application will be accepted. The FRPPG designates the RIOCOG Regional Services Division staff to inform potential applicants and grantees of the two (2) fund sources available through the Public Safety Office (PSO), Homeland Security Grants Division which include: State Homeland Security Program-Regular Projects (SHSP-R) and State Homeland Security Program-LETPA Projects (SHSP-L), and the application submission deadlines. Potential applicants and grantees will be notified of funding opportunities and application submission deadlines through the RIOCOG Regional Services Division staff.

VIII. Appeal Process

- a. Applicants must first pursue a remedy at the RIOCOG level in writing within 14 calendar days after receiving their rank and score.

- b. If applicant is not satisfied applicant must submit a written request to FRPPG committee for review.

Texas Open Meetings Act Compliance

The Planning Group undertakes to substantially comply with the posting requirements of the Texas Open Meeting Act. Executive sessions shall not be permitted under this authority.



Agenda Item # 7

To: RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - FY 2028 FRPPG - SHSP Regional Priorities

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed

Approve and authorize the First Responders Preparedness Planning Group the FY 2028 First Responders Preparedness Planning Group - State Homeland Security Program Regional Priorities. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



Agenda Item # 8

To: RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Public Safety Office – State Homeland Security Grant Program

Information Item; no action is required

Review, discuss, and receive an update on the Public Safety Office – State Homeland Security Grant Program. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



Agenda Item # 9

To: RIOCOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Statewide Interoperable Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

Information Item; no action is required

Review, discuss, and receive an update on the TXSWIC – Statewide Interoperable Memorandum of Understanding. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



Agenda Item # 10

To: RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Texas Interoperability Level Survey and Focus Group Survey

Information Item; no action is required

Review, discuss, and receive an update on the Texas Interoperability Level Survey and Focus Group Survey. (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



Agenda Item # 11

To: RIOCOC First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Texas Radio Rodeo

Information Item; no action is required

Review, discuss, and receive an update on Texas Radio Rodeo (Presented by Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director)



Agenda Item # 12

To: RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Other Business

Information Item; no action is required



Agenda Item # 13

To: RIOCOG First Responders Preparedness Planning Group

From: Marisa Quintanilla, Regional Services Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: Adjournment

Discuss and Act Upon as Needed