

## **FY 2004 Metropolitan Medical Response System Program Continuation Grant Guidance**

### **Executive Summary**

Since its inception in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997, the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program has provided funding and support directly to jurisdictions to develop plans, conduct training and exercises, and acquire pharmaceuticals and equipment, in order to achieve and maintain the enhanced capability necessary to respond to a WMD mass casualty event.

The MMRS program enhances a jurisdiction's local preparedness efforts to respond to a mass casualty event, whether caused by WMD attack, epidemic/pandemic disease outbreak, large scale HAZMAT incident, or natural disaster, using its own resources during the vital period when lifesaving and population protection are most effective, from incident occurrence until significant external resources arrive. The core requirement of the MMRS program is the integration of first responder, medical treatment, public health, and emergency management components into an integrated system.

It has been a long-standing requirement of the MMRS program that local jurisdictional MMRS plans are to be coordinated with the relevant State government components. In addition, creative and innovative planning, including robust area mutual aid, and cooperative training initiatives, and communications and automated systems upgrades, have been hallmarks of the MMRS jurisdictions capability enhancements.

Approximately \$45 million in FY04 appropriated funds are being provided via grants to the existing 124 MMRS jurisdictions to further enhance and maintain the local MMRS jurisdictions' integrated, systematic preparedness for mass casualty events. This will result in somewhat increased funding over that provided in recent years, for successful applicants. There are three major components in the FY04 grants:

1. The Capability Focus Areas, available to all 124 jurisdictions, in eight areas: (1) Radiological medical and health effects preparedness; (2) operational viability of mass care shelters and medical treatment facilities; (3) emergency alerting system/emergency public information; (4) National Incident Management System (NIMS) compatibility; (5) quarantine and isolation preparedness; (6) Geographic Information Systems; (7) updated MMRS Steering Committee; and (8) pharmaceutical cache management and status reporting.
2. Sustainment of Enhanced Capabilities is available to jurisdictions that have completed their baseline capabilities, as specified in previous and current MMRS contracts. The purpose of this funding is to provide sustainment of enhanced response capabilities in MMRS jurisdictions gained through completion of baseline grant deliverables (e.g., updated planning and procedures, the maintenance of pharmaceuticals/equipment and supplies caches, ongoing training, and exercise activities); and, optionally, to support existing, or establish new, expanded MMRS operational areas and/or undertake local-State cooperative capability enhancement, including enhanced mutual-aid, for response to a WMD mass casualty event.

3. Special Project funding is available to support innovative projects with the potential for widespread application to improve automated systems and interoperable communications support to MMRS command decision-making and resource management, training delivery, and emergency public warning/risk communications. To be considered for funding of a Special Project MMRS jurisdictions must submit a detailed proposal, based on specific criteria, as part of their grant application.

The FY04 MMRS Grants Availability packages will be provided directly to the current jurisdictional MMRS points of contact. The grant applications will be due within 30 calendar days from the date they are provided. Technical assistance will be available to the jurisdictions during the application preparation period. The grant applications will be concurrently reviewed by FEMA regional and headquarters staff and the awards will be announced and funds obligated by FEMA headquarters no later than September 30, 2004.

The MMRS program is transitioning within the Department of Homeland Security from FEMA/Emergency Preparedness & Response Directorate, to the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness. This is in keeping with Secretary Ridge's commitment to create a one-stop State and local government grants organization. Support to jurisdictions will continue throughout this transition.

Although the funding mechanism of the MMRS program has migrated from contracts to grants for FY04, all previously established funding and contract deliverable obligations remain in effect. The capability enhancement and maintenance specified therein is considered to be an essential component of every MMRS.

For additional information on the MMRS program, please visit <http://mmrs.fema.gov>.