



Office of Governor Tim Walz &  
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

October 28, 2025

Dear Federal Delegation,

I am writing to once again express my deep concern over the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) decisions regarding grant allocations, the latest of which directly affects residents, businesses and visitors to at least nine Minnesota law enforcement jurisdictions.

Minnesota's public safety and emergency management agencies work every day to protect the lives of residents and visitors, often with limited resources and growing threats. We take that responsibility seriously and we are committed to doing everything possible to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism and violence. The safety of our communities — and the people who call them home — depends on strong partnerships and consistent federal support.

I previously wrote to you regarding DHS's decision to terminate Minnesota's Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant without warning, which has left Minnesotans more vulnerable to mass violence events. Minnesota has not yet seen any restoration of that funding.

I write today about the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant. In July, DHS notified Minnesota that we could apply for a full allocation of more than \$9.5 million for equipment and initiatives to combat terrorism and other threats to security. For at least the past five years, we have received the full allocation provided in the annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to fund programs and provide grants in jurisdictions statewide. This year, that meant working with Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Hennepin and Ramsey counties as well as the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This is in addition to the state's Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) division and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), two agencies that serve the 5.89 million people across Minnesota who call the state home and millions of others who visit each year.

The actual UASI award received was less than \$3 million, resulting in a shortfall of over \$6.5 million compared to the allocated total for Fiscal Year 2025. The only explanation provided for this reduction was "Adjusted per DHS Directive." No further details were provided. This funding is intended for critical state and local anti-terrorism efforts, it is unclear which DHS directive may conflict with this work.

Here are examples of the work DHS cut funding for:

- Washington County: Air purifying respirators for emergency responders, improvements for interoperable communications and equipment in the county's Emergency Operations Center.
- Dakota County: Countywide cyber protection; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives detection and response equipment and training; and Emergency Operations Center upgrades.
- Hennepin County: Cybersecurity training and equipment, emergency management training, communications equipment to support interoperability during disaster response and a disaster communications trailer.
- Anoka County: Cybersecurity training and equipment.
- Ramsey County: Emergency response planning.
- Saint Paul: Cybersecurity support and equipment, traffic control barriers for special event security and emergency management training in a year where a serious cyber attack crippled the city's networks.
- Minneapolis: Equipment to support the Emergency Operations Center, cybersecurity equipment and training, and emergency management planning and training to support incident response.
- HSEM: Support for planning before, during and after a terrorist or disaster event which has become even more critical as federal agencies pull back direct support for states.
- BCA: Support and equipment for the state's Fusion Center to address terrorism and facilitate information sharing amongst local, state, federal and tribal partners directly contributing to protection of the homeland.
- An additional \$400,000, which would have supported any agency who chose to compete for training funds.

As I have in the past, I ask you to stand with Minnesota's public servants, first responders, public safety personnel and emergency management professionals, supporting them as they work to protect themselves, Minnesotans and the nation against terroristic threats. Support state and local law enforcement with stable and badly needed funding. With this latest round of funding decisions, DHS has cut over \$7.2 million from law enforcement and public safety programs that should be dedicated to protecting Minnesotans and preventing and stopping terrorism. In a year when Minnesota has experienced unprecedented political violence, a school shooting, significant cyber attacks, and other concerning events it defies logic that such funding would be withheld from Minnesota as we work to protect Minnesotans and all Americans from mass violence events and terrorist activity.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz  
Governor