

**Report Finds Most New York Communities Are Not Receiving
Critical Homeland Security Funding**

January 2003

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country, communities and first responders – our police, fire, and emergency service personnel – across America have found themselves on the front lines in the war against terrorism on U.S. soil. Given this fact, our communities and first responders must receive assistance from the federal government to help them with this unprecedented burden. We know that cities, towns, and counties need these resources to buy new equipment, train personnel, protect critical infrastructure, and secure the American people from another terrorist attack. That is why, since that fateful September day, the federal government has spent billions of dollars on homeland security. Yet, critically needed funds are not reaching our local communities and first responders.

Senator Clinton's office conducted a recent survey of New York communities in order to assess their homeland security costs and needs and to determine to what extent federal homeland security funding was reaching these communities. Forty-eight municipalities and counties were contacted.^[1] Thirty-six have responded to date, and almost all indicated that the costs they have incurred since September 11th have been met with very little or no federal help.

Cities like Yonkers—the fourth largest city in New York—spent more than \$1.4 million on homeland security expenses after September 11th. Among a number of major actions taken to improve homeland security, Yonkers organized a safety battalion, upgraded their fire department's communication system, purchased hazmat protective equipment for some of its fire fighters and police officers, and deployed additional first responder resources. For 2003, the City of Yonkers and the surrounding area estimates that it will need more than \$2 million to cover additional homeland security costs, including improved communications equipment and testing of a proposed Special Operations Task Force that would provide an initial response to handle a chemical, nuclear, or biological attack. Since September 11th, Yonkers has received no federal homeland security funding that would cover these past and projected homeland security costs.

The City of Buffalo, located on the U.S.-Canadian border and in an area where there have been prominent arrests in counter-terrorism investigations, has incurred hundreds of thousands of dollars in homeland security costs for homeland security needs such as the upgrading of security for the City's water system and other critical infrastructure, as well as police, fire and emergency worker overtime to respond to hundreds of potential hazmat threats and to assist federal law enforcement with intelligence activities. Unfortunately, as has been previously reported, Buffalo's first

^[1] All of the counties with a population of 100,000 or more and all of the municipalities with a population of 50,000 or more were contacted. Almost all of these communities would be eligible for direct funding under the Homeland Security Block Grant of 2003 (S. 87), introduced by Senator Clinton on January 7, 2003.

responder staffing levels have actually *decreased* since the September 11th terrorist attacks, even as the demand for police, fire, and other emergency service personnel has increased. Like Yonkers, Buffalo has received no federal homeland security funding.

New York counties have also had to meet their new homeland security demands without much federal assistance. For example, Nassau County spent almost \$1 million for homeland security needs, including emergency response equipment, security systems, and hazmat first responder personnel costs. Nassau County currently projects the need for at least \$9 million for a number of homeland security needs, including first responder hazmat training, first responder protective equipment, and new computer and telecommunications equipment.

The survey posed three questions to each county and municipality: whether it had received any federal homeland security funding, either directly from the federal government or as pass-through funding from New York State, since September 11, 2001; what kind of homeland security costs, *e.g.*, planning, equipment, personnel, etc., it had incurred since September 11, 2001; and what kind of homeland security costs it expected to incur this year.

Their responses to these questions dramatically underscore the need for additional federal homeland security funding, and for it to be provided to our local communities in a direct, efficient, and flexible manner. Today, New York State's homeland security needs are not being met. Congress appropriated homeland security funding in two emergency supplemental bills (enacted in January 2002 and July 2002), but the majority of New York communities surveyed have yet to receive any funding.

Senator Clinton has introduced the Homeland Security Block Grant Act of 2003 to provide \$3.5 billion in funding for our local communities and first responders. With respect to \$3 billion of those funds, 70 percent will go directly to more than 1,000 cities, towns, villages and counties across the United States. The remaining 30 percent will be sent to the States, which will pass-through the funds to smaller communities. Most of the additional \$500 million in funds will be directed to the States for homeland security planning and coordination, and for the development and maintenance of statewide training facilities, best-practices clearinghouses, and communication systems. Local governments will also be eligible to receive additional funding to develop and expand first responder and emergency communication systems. Regional councils and intra-state and multi-state authorities will receive funding for homeland defense planning and coordination.

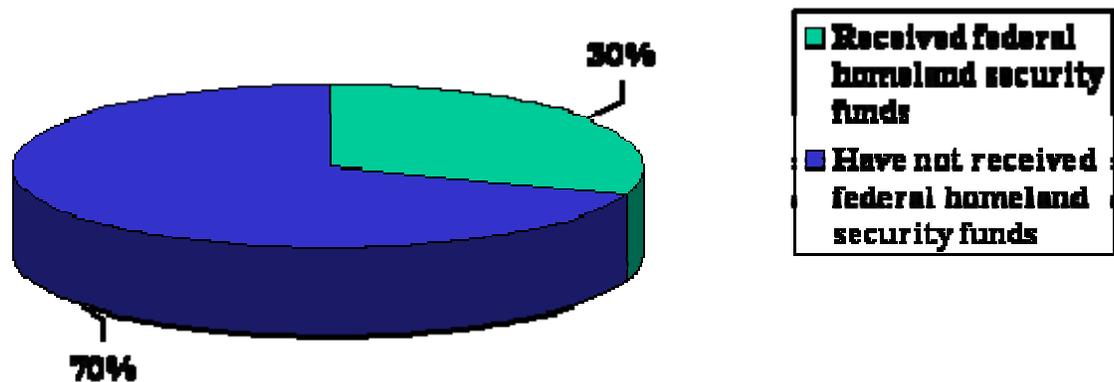
The Homeland Security Block Grant Act allocates funding through the new Department of Homeland Security to communities across America to help them improve emergency response and public safety at the local level. In addition, the Act would provide local communities with great flexibility to determine how best to use the block grant funds. The Homeland Security Block Grant Act is already supported by The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Senators Boxer, Corzine, Durbin, Feinstein, Mikulski, Schumer and Stabenow have cosponsored the bill.

It has been more than one year and four months since the attacks on September 11th. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, cities have invested more than \$2.6 billion of their own resources to respond and prepare for these new threats. It is time for the federal government to provide them with the homeland security funding they need to protect our state and nation. The Homeland Security Block Grant Act of 2003 will provide direct funding to our communities and first responders so that we can have the strongest homeland defense possible.

The survey's findings include the following:

1. The vast majority of communities tried to improve their level of emergency preparedness without sufficient resources and many communities reported that they will be unable to sustain these efforts without new federal assistance.
2. Many communities noted first responder personnel costs, particularly overtime expenses, as one of the most significant homeland security costs incurred. These expenses were the result of a variety of factors, including increased security for critical infrastructure (such as water treatment facilities), responses to perceived threats, and preparedness training for all of their first responders, not just training officers.
3. With respect to their current and future homeland security needs, many communities emphasized the need for first responder communication equipment and protective equipment as well as additional first responder personnel resources.
4. Aside from bioterrorism funding, only thirty percent of communities reported receiving federal homeland security funding, though some communities indicated that their first responder training officers had received some domestic preparedness training. Seventy percent of communities reported that they have not received federal homeland security funding since September 11, 2001.

It should also be noted that several communities stated that they received reimbursement for some expenses incurred when they provided assistance to New York City after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Inasmuch as the services were not provided to the communities themselves and their first responders, reimbursement for these services is not reflected in the attached chart. Their contribution to the recovery effort in New York City should always be honored and never forgotten.



Three respondents also reported receiving federal homeland security funding in the form of equipment provided through the federally-funded State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Support Program, although the equipment received was not funded through post-September 11, 2001 appropriations. Under this program, which was initiated in 1999, the Justice Department’s Office of Domestic Preparedness provided grants to states to purchase specialized equipment for responding to terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Grants are distributed to states, which then distribute funds to localities in accordance with pre-approved state plans.

The information collected so far indicates that the equipment that has been purchased and distributed to date in New York State was through two- and three-year funding cycles begun in Fiscal Year 1999 and Fiscal Year 2001, *i.e.*, before September 11, 2001. Therefore, in this report, receipt of such equipment is not deemed to reflect the federal funding effort in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

5. Some communities have received or are about to receive bioterrorism funding provided in the January 2002 Emergency Supplemental. The supplemental provided formula-based funding through cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to upgrade state and local public health jurisdictions’ preparedness and response to bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health threats.

With few exceptions, municipalities are not eligible for this funding. All of the counties that responded either received bioterrorism funding or indicated that they were entering into cooperative agreements to receive the funding in the future.

The attached report contains the results of interviews with each of the local communities listed. Certain information collected in the course of the survey has been omitted from this public report for security purposes.

NY Community	Federal Homeland Security Funding Received	Bio-Terrorism Funding Received	Homeland Security Costs	Homeland Security Needs
MUNICIPALITIES				
Albany	No	No	Funds (\$5.7 million) spent on first responder personnel costs, protective equipment, and critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for first responder personnel costs, protective equipment, and critical infrastructure security
Amherst	No	No	TBD[2]	TBD
Buffalo	No	No	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security and first responder personnel	Funding needed for first responder rescue vehicle and related equipment, training, and first responder personnel
Cheektowaga	No	No	Funds spent on first responder personnel, planning, and critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for first responder protective equipment, communications equipment, and training
Colonie	No	No	Funds spent on planning and communications equipment	Funding needed for communications equipment
Hamburg	No	No	Funds spent on training, planning, and first responder personnel	Funding needed for training, planning, and equipment
Hempstead	No	No	Funds spent on first responder personnel and training	Funding needed for first responder personnel, training, specialized emergency response vehicles, and equipment
Huntington	No	No	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security	TBD
Mount Vernon	No	No	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for additional training, equipment and supplies
New York City	Yes	Yes	Funds spent on first responder personnel, equipment, critical infrastructure security, and intelligence gathering	Funding needed for first responder personnel, first responder protective equipment, specialized vehicles, critical infrastructure security and intelligence gathering
Niagara Falls	Yes	No	TBD	TBD

	(at least \$10,000)			
North Hempstead	No	No	TBD	TBD
Rochester	Yes	No	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security and first responder personnel	Funding needed for critical infrastructure security and first responder personnel
Smithtown	No	No	TBD	TBD
Syracuse	Yes	TBD	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security, training, personal protective equipment, and metropolitan medical response system	Funding (more than \$1 million) needed for critical infrastructure security
Tonawanda	No	No	Funds (\$150,000) spent on security equipment upgrade for water treatment facility and preparedness training	Funding needed for first responder communications equipment
White Plains	No	No	Funds spent on first responder personnel, critical infrastructure security, and training	Funds (more than \$900,000) needed for training, protective equipment, and specialized vehicles
Yonkers	No	No	Funds (\$1.3 million) spent on critical infrastructure security, first responder personnel, training, personal protective and other hazmat equipment, planning, and communications equipment	Funding (more than \$1.5 million) needed for regional task force, communications equipment, hazmat equipment, training and first responder personnel

NY Community	Federal Homeland Security Funding Received	Bio-Terrorism Funding Received	Homeland Security Costs	Homeland Security Needs
COUNTIES				
Albany	Yes	Yes (\$294,565)	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security, equipment, and first responder personnel	Funding needed for critical infrastructure and first responder personnel
Broome	No	Yes (\$200,536)	Funds spent on first responder personnel	Funding needed for smallpox vaccination
Chautauqua	Yes	Yes (\$154,750)	Funds spent on planning and vulnerability analysis	Funding need for equipment and first responder

				personnel
Erie	TBD	Yes (\$950,265)	Funds spent on planning and vulnerability analysis	Funding needed for planning, first responder equipment and training
Jefferson	No	Yes (\$126,738)	Funds spent on planning and first responder personnel	Funding needed for first responder communications equipment
Nassau	No	Yes (\$1,334,544)	Funds (more than \$950,000) spent on planning, emergency response equipment, security systems, first responder personnel and bioterrorism preparedness	Funding (at least \$9 million) needed for preparedness, planning, computer and telecommunications equipment, first responder training, hazmat preparedness equipment, and personal protective equipment
Niagara	Yes	Yes (\$219,846)	Funds spent on first responder personnel, intelligence gathering and critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for first responder personnel, training, and protective equipment
Oneida	No	Yes (\$235,469)	Funds spent on equipment and incident command center	TBD
Onondaga	Yes	Yes (\$458,336)	Funds (\$495,000) spent on bioterrorism preparedness and critical infrastructure security	Funding (\$476,000) needed for smallpox vaccinations
Ontario	Yes	Yes (\$115,224)	Funds spent on planning	Funding needed for equipment
Putnam	No	Yes (\$110,745)	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for emergency operations center
Rensselaer	TBD	Yes (\$167,538)	TBD	TBD
Rockland	No	Yes (\$286,753)	Funds spent for personal protective equipment, first	Funding needed for counter-terrorism training, hazmat

			responder personnel, computer equipment, and training	and personal protective equipment, bioterrorism equipment
Saratoga	No	Yes (\$200,635)	TBD	TBD
Schenectady	No	Yes (\$161,555)	Funds spent on training (for the City of Schenectady), personal protective equipment, and first responder personnel	Funding needed for protective equipment
Suffolk	No	Yes (\$1,419,369)	Funds spent on first responder personnel and critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for critical infrastructure security, planning, computer upgrades
Ulster	No	Yes (\$192,749)	Funds spent on critical infrastructure security	Funding needed for personal protective equipment, first responder personnel, and planning
Westchester	Yes	Yes (\$923,459)	Funds (\$3.4 million) needed for first responder personnel, critical infrastructure security, personal protective equipment, antidote kits, communication upgrades, and planning	Funding (\$4 million) needed for planning and preparedness, critical infrastructure security, first responder personnel, personal protective and hazmat equipment

[2] [“TBD” indicates that these communities responded but are in the process of providing further information.](#)