



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)** grant program within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 reduces funding from \$887 million to \$800 million and would only distribute funding to the top 25 UASIs based on a risk assessment, effectively leaving out 39 other urban areas.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **UASI grant** funding determinations in H.R. 1:

- This funding builds capabilities in 64 high-threat, high-density urban areas by enhancing regional preparedness, expanding regional collaboration and assisting participating jurisdictions in developing integrated regional systems for prevention, protection, response and recovery.
- This funding is vital in bringing cities, counties, tribes, states and federal partners together to address homeland security challenges before disaster strikes.
- This funding is important to further local law enforcement terrorism prevention-oriented planning, organization, training, exercise and equipment activities, critical infrastructure protection programs, urban search and rescue teams, regional planning.
- This funding supports the development and operation of fusion centers, which connect local, regional, and state entities along with private sector and citizens to share timely information creating a much needed "force multiplier". Many fusion centers may close if UASI funding is lost.
- Man-made or natural disasters happen in many regions across the country – not solely 25 – and funding must be maintained to all UASI regions to ensure there are no gaps in national, state, local and regional preparedness and response capabilities.

SEE THE ATTACHED SHEET TO SEE POTENTIAL UASI CHANGES



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, maintaining whole UASI funding for all identified regions is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure safety and security of our citizens, critical infrastructure and communities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.

UASI HR 1 Concerns:

Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey's (D-NY) amendment was included in H.R. 1, the continuing resolution, to prohibit the Federal Emergency Management Agency from providing Urban Area Security Initiative grants to more than 25 high-risk urban areas. The program provides financial support to major metropolitan areas at high risk of terrorist attack. Lowey's amendment would thwart an expansion of the number of regions eligible for funding, which dilutes the amount that high-risk areas, including her New York district, may receive.

The following is an assumption. It is not specified in H.R. 1 to indicate specific winners/losers.

If determined by FY10 funding levels, the following would be the top 25 UASIs (in no particular order):

New York City Area	Anaheim/Santa Ana Area
Los Angeles/ Long Beach Area	Miami Area
Bay Area, CA	Tampa Area
National Capital Region (District of Columbia)	Atlanta Area
Jersey City/Newark, NJ	Baltimore Area
Chicago Area	Detroit Area
Boston Area	Twin Cities, MN Area
Jersey City/Newark Area	St. Louis Area
Philadelphia Area	Kansas City, MO Area
Houston Area	Las Vegas, NV Area
Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Area	Norfolk Area
Phoenix Area	Seattle Area
San Diego Area	

The following areas are left out:

Tucson Area	Syracuse Area
Riverside Area, CA	Charlotte Area
Sacramento Area, CA	Cleveland Area
Oxnard Area, CA	Columbus Area
Bakersfield Area, CA	Toledo Area
Denver Area	Oklahoma Area
Bridgeport Area, CT	Tulsa Area
Hartford Area, CT	Pittsburgh Area
Fort Lauderdale Area	San Juan Area
Jacksonville Area	Providence Area
Orlando Area	Memphis Area
Honolulu Area	Nashville Area
Indianapolis Area	San Antonio Area
Louisville Area	El Paso Area
New Orleans Area	Austin Area
Baton Rouge Area	Salt Lake City Area
Omaha Area	Richmond Area
Buffalo Area	Milwaukee Area
Rochester Area	Portland Area
Albany Area	

If determined by 2000 Census population levels, the following would be the top 25 UASIs (in order of largest to smallest population):

1. New York City Area
(Jersey City/Newark, NJ)
2. Los Angeles/ Long Beach Area
3. Chicago Area
4. Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Area
5. Philadelphia Area
6. Houston Area
7. Miami Area
8. National Capital Region (District of Columbia)
9. Atlanta Area
10. Boston Area
11. Detroit Area
12. Phoenix Area
13. Bay Area, CA
14. Riverside Area, CA
15. Seattle Area
16. Twin Cities, MN Area
17. San Diego, CA Area
18. St. Louis Area
19. Tampa Area
20. Baltimore Area
21. Denver Area
22. Pittsburgh Area
23. Portland Area
24. Cincinnati Area
25. Sacramento Area

The following areas are left out:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Tucson Area | Albany Area |
| Anaheim/Santa Ana Area | Syracuse Area |
| Oxnard Area, CA | Charlotte Area |
| Bakersfield Area, CA | Cleveland Area |
| Bridgeport Area, CT | Columbus Area |
| Hartford Area, CT | Toledo Area |
| Jacksonville Area | Oklahoma City Area |
| Orlando Area | Tulsa Area |
| Honolulu Area | San Juan Area |
| Indianapolis Area | Providence Area |
| Louisville Area | Memphis Area |
| New Orleans Area | Nashville Area |
| Baton Rouge Area | San Antonio Area |
| Kansas City Area, MO | El Paso Area |
| Omaha Area | Austin Area |
| Las Vegas Area | Salt Lake City Area |
| Buffalo Area | Richmond Area |
| Rochester Area | Norfolk Area |
| | Milwaukee Area |