

## LEPC Feedback for Funding Cycle/Timeline Survey July 2016

I don't think any time frame would be better or worse than another. One thing that does become a pain for us is when we don't have details on both the SERC and UWS grant funding amounts. Douglas holds one planning meeting to discuss upcoming needs and then a full LEPC meeting to approve the selections. Then we wait until the grants come open, one at a time, oftentimes months down the road. If we could consolidate some of the work load so maybe it's one application for both grants that would make it the easiest for us. Since one is a federal grant and one is a state funded grant, I understand they have different requirements: one of them we actually control what we desire to be the rules (UWS). If we could improve that process, that would take the excess work load issue complaints away.

Also, if we could have SERC manage a process for Fire Shows Reno and the Continuing Challenge instead of making each LEPC complete a grant application for it. This would eliminate much paperwork from both us and you, save some funds and improve efficiencies. LEPC's still must approve how many to go but eliminate the need for us to complete forms, attend meetings (funding committee, planning/training committee and then the full SERC Board) and submit compliance reports with a very tight timeframe (Fire Shows Reno) due to the federal fiscal year funds are coming from for the event.

I know SERC desires us to attend meetings, but when each grant has three meetings for its approval, it becomes onerous upon us to attend them.

Thanks for asking our opinion: this is an outstanding thing and a positive fact of the changes that have occurred in your office.

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I wonder if there is a way to update the wording and definitions of all three grants and combine all three (equip/planning and UWS) and make them all applicable to either HM or Terrorism, or allow them all to be used for similar things it might make it easier to do them all at once. That, I realize, would require major changes but hopefully not via the legislature. A thought.

Having to tailor each grant separately sometimes is problematic and I think some agencies do not submit either the equipment or the planning grant request as they don't have anything they need to purchase or are not doing significant planning to go after those dollars. So maybe if it was one great big grant that was submitted for all of the three criteria the locals could accomplish more overall.

There is a lot of paperwork required by SERC early in the year to maintain certification. I worry about the paperwork load on Cheri to accomplish the task along with everything else right after the first of the year. It does have a lot of merit to combine them and issued them all at once then you have the remainder of the year to get the grant completed. It would limit the numbers of repetitive meetings that we have to attend to acquire the three grants.

The SERC staff's ability to manage it all at once like that is also a concern. But if SERC likes it, then it will probably work for all of us.

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For those counties with a very small staff such as ours, it may be a bit of a hardship to pull 3 grant applications together at the same time. Our LEPC meets on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, October.)

My recommendation would be to have the SERC and United We Stand Grant Applications due at the same time, perhaps February or March. That would allow LEPC's such as ours to start discussing items to submit in the application at our October meeting and then bring the application to the January meeting for formal approval. I would recommend having the HMEP application due in December. We could start discussing that application at our July meeting and seek formal approval in October. While we can always hold a special meeting to approve an application (as we have done quite often), it does present a scheduling challenge as you will know.

Do you think it would be too much to have the funding committee review all of the applications at one time? That could potentially be 51 applications that they would have to review if each county submitted all 3 applications. I served at the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee for several years and reviewed upwards of 30 applications at one time and it is a lot to take in.

Just my thoughts. I would be open to discussing this more and working toward a solution that would be beneficial to all and without any duplication of effort.

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Great feedback!!!! For those we are still waiting for your feedback SERC needs to provide some clarifying information. SERC and the sub-grantees must keep federal and state funding sources separate. United We Stand is statutorily specific to combatting Terrorism. We are soliciting feedback because of the need for the federal grant funding. Thus far the scenario that looks like it may work best for LEPCs, SERC and SERC Funding Committee to include the Planning & Training Sub-Committee is to separate the federal and have HMEP sub-grant applications submitted between Mid-October through December for the following program period to begin September 30 the following year and the SERC Funding Committee will review to make recommendations prior to the SERC April meeting, ideally in January. The SERC Commission will approve, modify or deny the HMEP applications at the April SERC Meeting.

The Application period for the SERC and UWS, both state sources of funding and different objectives/requirements, the application period can open in January with a due date of early to mid- March. We will explore combining into one application but asking for the same information. Entities, LEPCs/State Agencies, would complete the required portions for the funding they are applying for but if for both funding sources and approved for both funding sources will receive two separate sets of award documents. Both funding sources will be contingent upon the funds available. These applications will be reviewed by the SERC Funding Committee, ideally in March, and the recommendations made to the SERC Commission at the April SERC Commission meeting. Both of these program periods are State Fiscal Years (SFY), running from July 1-June 30.