

# CAPITOL -TO- CAPITOL

SACRAMENTO, CA WASHINGTON, D.C.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

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## REGIONAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS

### Requested Action

The Public Safety Team is a coalition of first responders, elected officials, business leaders, and community members requesting Congress fully fund core local law enforcement, firefighter, and homeland security programs that enhance the safety of residents and workers and serve to protect life and property, including:

- Fund the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program at \$1 billion, and advocate for the expansion of program principles to include mitigation of risks posed by all hazards, not exclusively natural hazards.
- Support funding for the construction, maintenance, and renovation of critical infrastructure buildings across the region.
- Fund & Reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Programs, including at least \$360 million in Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grants, \$360 million in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, and \$35 million in Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants; and support the regional fire grant applications submitted to FEMA.
- Support full funding for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program.
- Fund the nationwide FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Program (US&R) at \$50 million. The program has been level funded for the past several years while program costs for equipment and labor have greatly increased. An increase of program funding to FEMA will directly support the sponsoring task forces.
- Provide full funding for the COPS Hiring Grant Program and support regional grant applications.
- Support efforts to allocate funding for Mobile Integrated Health Units / Mobile Crisis Response Teams and de-escalation training.

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- Maintain funding for the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) to help communities identify and close gaps in Housing, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management.
- Address the increasing problem of Fentanyl in our communities.
- Ensure that funding dedicated to help the victims of crimes is stabilized.

## Business Nexus

Businesses benefit when communities are vibrant, healthy, and safe. Ensuring the safety of our region's business owners, residents and visitors is a top priority for Public Safety agencies across our six-county area, which relies on federal programs and strong federal-state-local partnerships for training, equipping, and education of public safety personnel to better serve its citizens.

## Background

The Public Safety Team strongly supports the following public safety programs that provide federal assistance for training, equipping, and education of public safety personnel to better serve the Sacramento region:

**Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program (BRIC):** The BRIC program provides funding to states and local governments for natural hazard mitigation, including mitigation projects, as well as capability and capacity building projects. The general goal of the BRIC program is to promote community resilience and adaptation, and while the mitigation of natural hazards plays one part in promoting community resilience, the BRIC program currently does not provide an avenue for funding projects that mitigate other hazards that threaten community resilience.

**Assistance to Firefighter Grant Programs:** The Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) provides grant funding for equipment and training; the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER) provides funding for hiring of firefighters; and the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program (FP&S) funds projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters. In recent years, over \$4.3 million has been awarded through AFG grants to agencies in the region for personal protective equipment (PPE), operations and safety equipment and vehicles, facility modifications, and training initiatives; an additional \$11.5 million has been awarded through SAFER grants for the hiring of firefighters as well as recruitment and retention projects; and \$249,000 has been awarded through FP&S grants for fire prevention and safety projects.

**State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP):** SHSGP provides funding to states to build capabilities that protect against, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist acts and other types of emergencies or disasters. Each year, public safety agencies within the Sacramento Operational Area submit projects for consideration for SHSGP funding.

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Projects may include equipment, planning, training, or exercises and must not only meet FEMA's stated program priorities, but those outlined in the State of California's supplemental program guidance as well. Over the past few years, \$3.2 million has been awarded to the Sacramento Operational Area.

**Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI):** Sacramento is one of the 40 funded UASI regions in the United States. The UASI program assists high-threat, high-density Urban Areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

**Urban Search and Rescue (US&R):** The US&R program is a federal program comprised of 28 national task forces that are specifically trained units. These units are always ready and work daily under a readiness Cooperative agreement at the local level and transition to the Stafford Act in a time of need. They are activated and deployed by FEMA in a variety of emergencies or disasters. The City of Sacramento Fire Department is the sponsoring agency for the California Task Force 7 (CA TF-7). The Task Force comprises fire and rescue personnel from City of Sacramento Fire Department, Folsom Fire Department, Roseville Fire Department, West Sacramento Fire Department, Cosumnes Community Services District, El Dorado County Fire Protection District, Woodland Fire Department, Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento County Airports System, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, and CAL FIRE. Funding for the US&R program directly supports the sponsoring agencies.

**Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grant Program:** The Sacramento Police Department was successful in a recent round of COPS Hiring funding, receiving a \$1.875 million grant award to hire 15 police officers. This was one of the largest awards received in the nation. Similarly, the Roseville Police Department has benefited from COPS Office funding in the past. The COPS Hiring Grant Program is important to the region and a great resource of federal funding for law enforcement.

**Mobile Integrated Health Units / Mobile Crisis Response Teams:** Regional first responders have been at the forefront of incorporating revolutionary health protocols in recent years. Whether an individual is suffering from a mental health crisis, or needing on-site care that doesn't require medical transport, MCRT's and MIH Units have been utilized with great success across the greater Sacramento Region. The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District has been piloting a MIH Unit program which has drastically cut down on high-frequency 911 utilizers. In just a 3-month period of these specialized units, high utilizers decreased their 911 usage by 55%, which helped save the system over \$350,000. In turn, this serves to save the patient money and alleviate the ever-growing issue of prolonged "wall-time." Additionally, a Placer Health and Human Services initiative in coordination with the Roseville Police Department sponsors the Mobile Crisis Team and the Family Mobile Crisis Team for mental health crisis response in Roseville.

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In 2022, the combined teams responded to 467 mental health crisis calls. The joint response allows Police Officers to secure the scene and quickly transition to the crisis team for mental health support, including crisis care and longer-term solutions. The teams are available for limited hours and days during the week but have proved a tremendous resource in the response to mental health issues.

**Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP):** The RCPGP plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System. The RCPGP supports the building of a secure and resilient nation by providing resources to encourage innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents and building on existing regional efforts.

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