

STATE OF WASHINGTON

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Gov. Gregoire announces \$30 million in federal funds for public safety

CAMP MURRAY – Gov. Chris Gregoire today announced that Washington will receive \$30 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve public safety programs.

The grants distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency include \$11 million to improve security and emergency preparedness in the Puget Sound metropolitan area. In addition, Washington will receive \$18.1 million to fund a range of homeland security preparedness, response, planning and recovery activities for disasters across the state. The grants will put Washington in 12th rank nationally in 2009 FEMA grant allocations.

“This funding comes at a critical time when state resources are limited,” Gregoire said. “I commend our first responders for their careful planning and coordinated efforts. Because of their cooperation, the Puget Sound metropolitan area grant is \$700,000 higher this year than last.”

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, the Washington state homeland security adviser and chairman of the Governors' Homeland Security Advisors Council of the National Governors Association, said the state leads national efforts to secure funds for state and local public safety priorities, and is working with Homeland Security to improve the administration of grant programs.

“Nationally we have worked with the Homeland Security and other states to ensure that stakeholder feedback was considered when targeting allocations and in developing a more transparent and efficient application process,” Lowenberg said.

For more information about the grant programs, contact Don MacSparran, Washington Emergency Management Division, homeland security section manager, at 253-512-7468.

Information is also available through the Team Washington Homeland Security Newsletters at: <https://www.piersystem.com/go/site/1289/>.

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