

ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Membership Meeting

February 3, 2026, 10 a.m.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
2200 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL

and

DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
418 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL

Attendance:

Unless otherwise indicated, individuals listed attended in Springfield.

Ted Berger, Homeland Security Advisor/IEMA-OHS Acting Director

Beth Windisch, IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Homeland Security (DuPage County)

HSAC Member Delegates:

Ameren –

American Public Works Association (APWA) – Vydas Juskelis (DuPage County), Mike Millette (DuPage County)

American Red Cross – Scott Clarke

American Water –

Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois (AFFI) – Charles Sullivan, Chris Coats

Aurora University –

Central Management Services (CMS) – Brent Boesdorfer

Cities of Bloomington-Normal –

Cities of Champaign-Urbana –

City of Chicago –

City of Joliet –

City of Naperville –

City of Peoria –

City of Quincy –

City of Rockford – Todd Monahan (DuPage County)

City of Springfield –

Collaborative Health Care Urgency Group (CHUG) –

Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DEMRS) – Alex Joves (DuPage County)

DuPage County Office of Homeland Security Emergency Management (OHSEM) – Craig Dieckman (DuPage County)

Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) – Dan Ryan

Illinois Association of County Engineers – Cliff Frye

Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA) – John Ridley

Illinois Association of School Administrators –

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Sarah Miller

Illinois Board of Higher Education –

Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators –

Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers –

Illinois College of Emergency Physicians – Jason Kegg

Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) – Bryan Pemble

Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) – Jeff Newell

Illinois Council of Code Administrators –

Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association –

Illinois Department of Agriculture –
 Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) –
 Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) – Amy Dickenson-Ferguson
 Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) – Jennifer Rominger, Jason Bowen
 Illinois Department of Military Affairs (Illinois National Guard) – Leah Medina
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) –
 Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) – Jessica McAnelly
 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) – Joe Gasparich
 Illinois Department on Aging – Chuck Miller
 Illinois Education Association –
 Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) – Clayton Kuetemeyer
 Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) –
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) –
 Illinois Firefighters Association –
 Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) – Joseph Holomy
 Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) – Heather Moore
 Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHHA) – Keneatha Johnson (DuPage County)
 Illinois Incident Management System (IL-IMS) –
 Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) – Larry Evans, Bryant Seraphin
 Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) – Heather Hotz
 Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT) –
 Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System –
 Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) – Mark Doerfler
 Illinois School Psychologists Association –
 Illinois School Resource Officers Association –
 Illinois Sheriffs' Association –
 Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) – Amy Kelly, Bernadette Matthews (DuPage County)
 Illinois State Police (ISP) – Scott Ahrens
 Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) – Matthew Miller
 Lake County Emergency Management Agency – Michael Jackson (DuPage County), Dan Eder (DuPage County)
 Logan County Emergency Management Agency – Josh Gasparini
 McHenry County Emergency Management Agency –
 Metro-East Emergency Management Agency (St. Clair – Madison Counties) – Samantha Bierman
 Mid-West Truckers Association –
 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) – Bernie Lyons (DuPage County)
 Nicor Gas – Mark Guth (DuPage County)
 Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Allen Reyne
 Ogle County Emergency Management Agency –
 People's Gas and Northshore Gas Companies – Charlie Graham (DuPage County), Paul Siegfried (DuPage County)
 Quad Cities –
 Regional Superintendents of Schools –
 Secretary of State Police (SOS) – Vince Daugherty, Jonah Kinsolving
 Will County Emergency Management Agency –

Other Attendees

Beamer-Pfeifer, Julie – WIU/IEMA-OHS
Bricker, Cindi – ILETSB
Cochran, Chris – IDPH
Cortez, Nicky – IEMA-OHS
Doughty, Lauren – Lake County EMA
Evans, Bob – IEMA-OHS
Fleming, Mick – IESMA (DuPage County)
Franke, Tim – DCFS
Graves, Micheal – IESMA
Horn, Nichole – IEMA-OHS
Javorkuti, Jamie – Lake County EMA
Meredith, Tracy – ILETSB
Pool, Douglas – ISP
Reichert, Ashley – ISP
Stevens, Mark - IDPH
Watkins, Anne – IEMA-OHS (DuPage County)

➤ Call to Order/Welcome

IEMA-OHS Preparedness and Grants Administration Division Chief Bob Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending in Springfield and Wheaton.

➤ Minutes

- ***Motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2025, full membership meeting***

Motion to approve: Dan Ryan, ILACP

Seconded: Joseph Holomy, IFCA

Motion passed.

➤ Public Comments - none

➤ National and State Homeland Security Updates

- Ted Berger, HSA/Acting IEMA-OHS Director, introduced new IEMA-OHS Chief of Staff Nicky Cortez, who joined the agency in January.

He noted that during these times of significant uncertainty regarding federal funding, Illinois is fortunate to have a structure like the HSAC with established relationships and subject matter experts across many disciplines to guide the state through the funding process.

HSA Berger also provided an update on legislation impacting preparedness and response efforts and the FEMA Review Council, which was created by the president last spring and expected to release findings on December 11. As of February 3, the findings had not been released.

- Beth Windisch, IEMA-OHS Deputy Director of Homeland Security, introduced Anne Watkins, Assistant Deputy Director for Homeland Security.

Deputy Director Windisch also outlined her current priorities for homeland security in Illinois: resilient communities, securing critical infrastructure, proactive risk and threat visibility, integrating cybersecurity throughout all preparedness, and an agile homeland security enterprise.

- Intelligence Briefing – Ashley Reichert, Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, Illinois State Police
- Cybersecurity Update – Jason Bowen, Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology

➤ Old Business

- 2025 HSAC Annual Report – the 2025 report is due to the governor's office March 1, 2026. Any committees that haven't submitted reports yet should do so as soon as possible.

➤ New Business

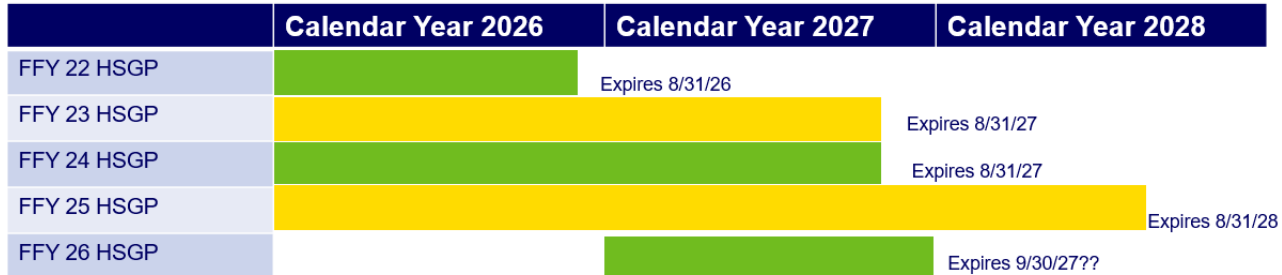
- Bob Evans reviewed the timeline laid out in the HSGP NOFO vs. the timeline when the award was issued (attached to minutes).
- Chief Evans went over the tentative timeline for committee project submissions for the FFY26 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and SFY27 Preparedness and Response (PAR) Grant Program (timeline attached). He pointed out that the March 18 Council of Chairs meeting is being moved to April 15.
- Committee representatives provided briefings on 2025 accomplishments.

➤ Other Business

- Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - Council of Chairs Meeting – April 15, 2026, 10 a.m. **NEW DATE**
 - Full Membership Meeting – April 22, 2026, 10 a.m.
 - Council of Chais Meeting – May 20, 2026, 10 a.m.
- Adjournment

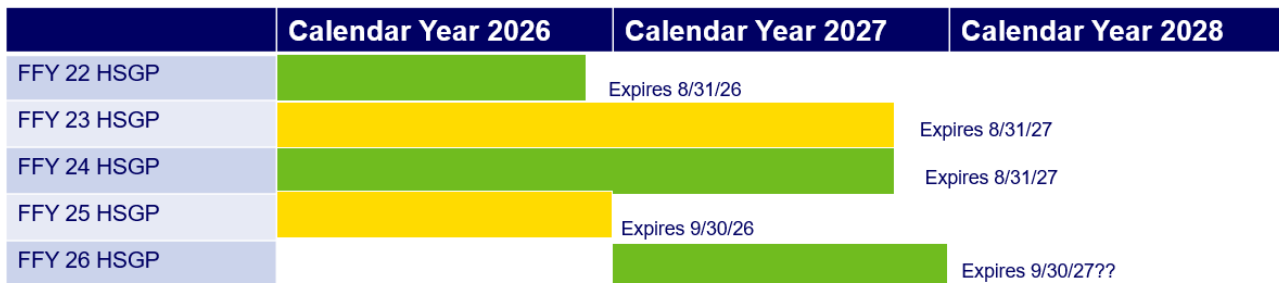
Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Funding

Timeline from NOFO



Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Funding

Timeline from Award



FFY 2026 HSGP and SFY 27 PAR Timeline

All dates are tentative.

(Updated 2-3-26)

February- Attachment A's sent out to committee chairs.

February through **April 1st**-Committees meet to discuss strategy and projects for FFY 26 HSGP funding. **(October 1, 2026-September 30, 2027, performance period?).**

April 1st-Organizations submit initial Attachment A's with SHSP/UASI split and justification for split. Also, a Personnel List for organizations who have positions listed for funding on Attachment A. **(Changed from March 11th)**

April 15th (Room is reserved)-IL-HSAC Chairs meeting

Chairs to discuss Attachment A's project submissions, overall SHSP/UASI split, State/Local split and vote on final FFY 26 HSGP recommended project submission to Full IL-HSAC (if allocations available from FEMA). **(Changed from March 18th)**

April 16th through May 13th- Committees meet to discuss strategy and projects for SFY 27 PAR funding. (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028, performance period).

April 22nd- IL-HSAC Full Meeting

IL-HSAC Full membership meeting to discuss and vote on final FFY 26 HSGP recommended project submission to HSA (if allocations available from FEMA).

May 20th- IL-HSAC Chairs meeting

Chairs to discuss the strategy for SFY 27 PAR funding. (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028, performance period). The Chairs *might also be discussing final vote on FFY 26 HSGP recommendations to full IL-HSAC if allocations are late.*

June 10th- Committee project requests for SFY 27 PAR due to IEMA-OHS

June 24th- IL-HSAC Chairs meeting

Chairs discuss and vote on SFY 27 PAR project funding recommendations to full IL-HSAC.

June 30th-IEMA-OHS submits FFY 26 HSGP application to FEMA

July 22nd-IL-HSAC Full meeting

Full membership meets to discuss and vote on SFY 27 PAR project funding recommendations. (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028, performance period)

July 23rd through September 8th

Committees meet to discuss unmet needs requests that can be submitted to IEMA-OHS for reallocated FFY 23 HSGP and SFY 27 PAR funding.

September 9th-Unmet needs requests for FFY 23 HSGP and SFY 27 PAR due to IEMA-OHS

September 23rd- IL-HSAC Chairs meeting

Chairs meet to discuss and prioritize FFY 23 HSGP and SFY 27 PAR unmet needs project submissions.

October 1st-IEMA-OHS receives FFY 26 Award. Grant agreements are issued to all organizations who have approved Final Attachment A's. FEMA may place a hold on certain projects or ask IEMA-OHS to revise submission of IJ's based upon what projects are approved and how it affects funding splits.

October 28th-IL-HSAC Full meeting

Full membership meets to discuss and vote on unmet needs projects for FFY 23 HSGP and SFY 27 PAR funding recommendations.

December 9th-IL-HSAC Chairs meeting

Chairs meet to discuss Annual Report submission.