



For Immediate Release
February 13, 2008

New IDHS plan provides counties opportunity for increased funding

A new funding system being introduced by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide county emergency management programs a way to secure increased funding.

“The preparedness of our counties has grown significantly in its importance,” said J. Eric Dietz, executive director of IDHS. “Counties will be on the front lines for many natural and man-made disasters. This assessment is a tool that will help the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to encourage overall statewide preparedness and encourage counties to have plans and procedures in place to make the people of Indiana more safe and secure.” Criteria include planning, response, training/exercise and administration.

Traditionally, IDHS and its predecessor agencies have provided half of the funding for most of Indiana’s 92 counties’ emergency management programs through an annual grant. The new system will provide for up to 60 percent compensation for three positions total, which are a director, an assistant director and a support person.

Under a recent practice evaluation, all counties will receive at least the traditional 50 percent funding, with some to receive a high of 60 percent for fiscal year 2007. A final practice evaluation will take place this spring, and the first actual evaluation will occur in the fall, which will determine each county’s emergency management funding for fiscal year 2008.

To ensure that the counties have had ample opportunity to prepare for the new system, practice evaluations, trainings and much communication has occurred over the last two years.

“All counties have the opportunity to be funded at the higher level,” Dietz said.

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