The Oregon Office of Emergency Management recently awarded approximately $3.5 million throughout the State from the federal Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), and approximately $5 million from the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

The HSGP provides funding to states, territories, urban areas, and other local governments to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate, and recover from potential hazards with a focus on terrorism prevention and response.

"The focus is on terrorism and other catastrophic events," said HSGP Grants Coordinator Sidra Metzger-Hines. "These grants are important for Oregon because they provide funding, equipment, planning, training, and exercises that are part of Oregon’s critical first response infrastructure."

The Office of Emergency Management serves as a liaison between FEMA and local jurisdictions to facilitate the award process and monitor projects through completion, explained Metzger-Hines. The HSGP is a competitive grant program based on security needs throughout Oregon with 80% going to local government agencies and 20% to state agencies programs.

The EMPG is the primary source for funding emergency management personnel throughout the state and more than 85% of EMPG funds are passed through to 41 eligible counties, cities and tribal emergency management programs.

"It is the only 50% federal, 50% non-federal match grant," said Kelly Jo Craigmiles, Exercise Training Officer for the Office of Emergency Management. "OEM views the EMPG as a "people" grant because the majority of the funds are used to sustain and enhance staffing and emergency management programs throughout the state."

Currently there are 113 emergency management personnel funded through this annual FEMA grant. These grants are in addition to a variety of programs the Office of Emergency Management manages focusing on preparation, response, recovery and mitigation for potential threats in Oregon.

For more information about the Office of Emergency Management grants programs go to: http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/all_grants.aspx

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