

Summary of Grantee Biographies

2005 Homeland Security Grantee Meeting

March 2005 ♦ Washington, DC



Background

CNCS Homeland Security Grantees convened in March of 2005 for a national conference. Grantees exchanged effective practices, tools, and materials to enhance their knowledge and skills needed for implementing successful homeland security activities. Grantee and sub-grantee participants also submitted brief biographies about their HLS programs and current organizational needs. This one-page summary provides a snapshot of the current CNCS Homeland Security volunteer programs taking place in local communities as described by these Grantees. The summary information represents over 60 organizations conducting HLS activities in the following states:

Arizona ▪ Colorado ▪ Connecticut
District of Columbia ▪ Florida ▪ Illinois
Indiana ▪ Kentucky ▪ Maryland
Massachusetts ▪ Michigan ▪ Minnesota
Montana ▪ New Jersey ▪ New York
Ohio ▪ Oklahoma ▪ Pennsylvania ▪ South
Carolina ▪ Tennessee ▪ Texas ▪ Vermont
Virginia ▪ Washington ▪ West Virginia
Wisconsin

Targeted Populations & Service Areas

- ◆ Non-English speaking populations
- ◆ Elderly and persons with disabilities
- ◆ Low-income populations
- ◆ Cultural communities
- ◆ K-12 students
- ◆ Human service agencies
- ◆ Isolated rural communities
- ◆ Local neighborhoods
- ◆ Inner-city neighborhoods/urban boroughs
- ◆ County and state-wide coordination

Current Activities in Homeland Security

- ◆ "Airport Ambassadors" information station
- ◆ Agricultural terrorism training
- ◆ Assisting small businesses with 'Continuity of Operations Plans'
- ◆ Citizen preparedness councils
- ◆ Community professional linkages
- ◆ Community vaccination campaigns
- ◆ Coordinating pet care during disasters
- ◆ Creating safety videos
- ◆ Developing effective grass-roots communication system
- ◆ Developing volunteer database (web-based and otherwise)
- ◆ Development of an emergency response resource directory
- ◆ Emergency and community agencies coordination
- ◆ 'Emergency Volunteer Mobilization Center'
- ◆ Establishing high school 'Red Cross Clubs'
- ◆ First-aid and emergency training
- ◆ First Responder support by volunteers
- ◆ Geographic Information System (GIS) training
- ◆ 'Home Safety Check' Program
- ◆ Household emergency preparedness plans
- ◆ Incorporating disaster preparedness into K-12 lesson plans
- ◆ 'Neighborhood Watch' programs
- ◆ Outreach to special/at risk populations
- ◆ School crisis plans
- ◆ Service learning
- ◆ Technical assistance to sub-grantees
- ◆ 'Telephone Reassurance Programs'
- ◆ Training FCC-licensed radio amateurs in emergency communication
- ◆ Volunteer recruitment and training
- ◆ Winter emergency preparedness

Grantees' Needs Identified

- ◆ Coordinating community HLS efforts
- ◆ Dispelling myths about 'homeland security' in the community
- ◆ Effective and innovate ways to prepare citizens at grass-roots level
- ◆ eGrants system and form completion assistance
- ◆ How to count volunteer hours when partnering with RSVP programs
- ◆ How to encourage community participation in disaster preparedness
- ◆ Identify speakers and topics for regional HLS conference
- ◆ Input from professional emergency service personnel about 'lay persons' knowledge needed for HLS activities
- ◆ Methods for assessing the effectiveness of projects
- ◆ Development of standard instruments for measuring performance
- ◆ Opportunities to network with other HLS grantees
- ◆ Overcoming barriers to working with municipalities
- ◆ Senior volunteer management
- ◆ Sharing of best practices from other HLS projects
- ◆ State emergency volunteer management plans
- ◆ Sustaining HLS activities after the end of current grant cycle
- ◆ Tools to track volunteer hours and service activities
- ◆ Volunteer recruitment, recognition, and retention
- ◆ Working with diverse geographical communities in rural settings

