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TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors

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SUBJECT: Guidance on eligibility of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to receive ODP homeland security grant funding

In response to several inquiries, ODP is providing the following guidance on the eligibility of NGOs to receive funding through ODP grant programs.

NGOs are eligible for ODP grant funding via two options. First, States can fund NGO initiatives directly out of the 20% of the total grant award that can be retained at the State level. Second, local jurisdictions may support NGOs using the 80% of the grant funds passed through to them by the State. In both instances, NGOs are considered eligible for ODP funds if their efforts support the goals and objectives outlined in relevant homeland security strategies and the State or local unit of government determines such funding is appropriate.

However, States cannot fund NGOs directly and count those sums toward the 80% pass-through requirement. According to ODP grant program guidance, States must pass through a minimum 80% of the grant funds directly to local units of government. For the purposes of these grants, the term "local unit of government" includes any of the following: county, city, village, town, district, borough, port authority, transit authority, water district, regional planning commission, council of government, Indian tribe, authorized tribal organization, Alaska Native village, or other political subdivision of any state. As such, NGOs do not qualify as local units of government.

If you have any further questions on NGO eligibility, please contact your ODP Preparedness Officer at (800) 368-6498.