



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2024:009

REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the funding agency for all grant funding allocated/authorized by Congress to support the National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** up to \$520,000,000 is available in total funding for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP). These funds are based on risk as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) relative risk methodology and statutory minimums pursuant to the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-296), as amended.
- WHEREAS,** DHS allows FEMA to dictate competitive grant processes and procedures in such a way that funding for Tribal emergency management programmatic support remains largely allocated directly to and controlled by states; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations and Tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to obtain funding directly from DHS, and the current funding mechanisms require Tribal Nations and their emergency management organizations to seek funds through state governments; and
- WHEREAS,** current emergency management funding mechanisms and grant eligibility guidelines disregard Tribal sovereignty and self-determination and are not consistent with FEMA Tribal Policy, #FP 305-111-1, which declares, "Tribal governments are not political subdivisions of states, but are to be recognized by the United States as distinct sovereigns"; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2003, Congress allocated over \$55 billion in Homeland Security Grant Program funds to state and local governments, which averages \$3.2 billion per year. In contrast, Tribal Nations have only been allocated just over \$95 million (\$5.5 million per year average) in federal homeland security funding during the same period; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, Tribal Nations request at least \$40 million for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP). Of those Tribal Nations that do apply for the THSGP, many could use the entire amount budgeted for the program on their own. The THSGP also

cannot be used in combination with additional funds received from a state, such as the overall SHSGP and the Urban Area Security Initiative. Since all 574 federally recognized Tribal Nations are not eligible to apply for THSGP, it is necessary for DHS to support Tribal Nations by increasing the THSGP program to \$207 million; and

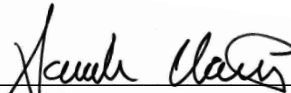
- WHEREAS,** last year, DHS submitted a legislative proposal to Congress to ensure all federally recognized Tribal governments are eligible for THSGP and have access to all-hazards preparedness grant funding at 100 percent federal share, with flexibility to fund emergency management staff and infrastructure. Investing in Tribal capacity is also a mitigation effort that can help address the effects of climate change in our communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress and the Administration have trust and treaty obligations to provide for the public safety and welfare of Tribal Nations and our citizens. These obligations are based on the longstanding Nation-to-Nation relationship between Tribal Nations and the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** on December 6, 2023, President Biden issued Executive Order 14112, “Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations to Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination”, which directs agencies to assess unmet financial obligations to Tribal Nations, reform federal programs in a way that facilitates greater autonomy over how Tribal Nations utilize federal funding, and make federal funding less burdensome and more accessible for Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors strongly urges Congress to increase the funding of the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program to \$207 million to ensure that all Tribal Nations can access and obtain these funds; and be it further
- RESOLVED** USET SPF urges Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the use of THSGP funds in combination with any additional hazardous funds that Tribal Nations are eligible to receive from states, such as the overall State Homeland Security Grant Program; and be it further
- RESOLVED** USET SPF calls upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify and implement methods to support streamlining Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program awards directly to Tribal Nations as directed by Executive Order 14112, as well as reducing administrative and reporting burdens and increasing flexibility for Tribal Nations to apply for, manage, and implement recovery efforts using THSGP funds.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting held in Arlington, VA at which a quorum was present on March 29, 2024.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund