State Border Security Reinforcement Fund Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the State Border Security Reinforcement Fund (SBSRF) on June 4, 2026. SBSRF makes nearly $10 billion available to State Administrative Agencies, on a competitive basis, to enhance border security. Applicants should refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for full details and application requirements.

Overview

The State Border Security Reinforcement Fund (SBSRF) is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is a competitive program designed to reinforce border security at every level. By combining transparent competition, strict compliance, robust oversight, and executive flexibility, SBSRF advances both the statutory requirements of Congress and the executive priorities of the Trump Administration, ensuring effective border security for the nation.

Funding

As authorized by the Working Families Tax Cut Act of 2025 (Public Law 119-21), DHS is making $9,985,436,000 in federal funding available for the FY 2026 SBSRF.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants, as listed in the NOFO, are State Administrative Agencies (SAA).

Applicant Criteria

Each State Administrative Agency may submit one SBSRF grant application. Eligible applicants must demonstrate capacity, either internally or through a partnership, to carry out each SBSRF allowable activity they propose funding for in their application. For this funding opportunity, the term "state" includes only U.S. states, excluding the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Tribal governments are not eligible for direct awards or subawards under the SBSRF.

Subapplicant Criteria

Under the SBSRF, eligible subapplicants may apply to and receive subawards from one eligible State Administrative Agency that applies for and receives a SBSRF award directly from FEMA. Subapplicants must work directly with an eligible State Administrative Agency to be included in an application and must have the capacity to perform each

allowable activity as proposed by the applicant. Eligible subapplicants, as stated in the NOFO, are local governments as defined by 2 C.F.R. § 200.1.

Allowability

SBSRF allowable activities include, but will are not limited to:

- Construction or installation of a border wall, border fencing or other barrier, or buoys along the southern border of the United States.
- Any work necessary to prepare the ground at or near land borders to allow construction and maintenance of a border wall or other barrier fencing.
- Detection and interdiction of illicit substances and aliens who have unlawfully entered the United States and have committed a crime under federal, state, or local law.
- Relocation of aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States from small population centers to other domestic locations.

Application Period

The SBSRF application period opened on June 4, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. ET. The application period will close on August 3, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. ET.

Application Process

Applying for an award is a multi-step process. Applicants are encouraged to register early in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) system because the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact an applicant's ability to meet required submission deadlines. Please refer to Section 4. Application Contents and Format in the FY 2026 SBSRF NOFO for detailed information.

All application materials will be posted on Grants.gov. Eligible applicants must submit their application through FEMA GO. For FEMA GO support, applicants should contact FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov or (877) 585-3242, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. ET.

Completed applications must be submitted in the FEMA GO system no later than 5:00 P.M. ET on August 3, 2026.

Application Review

FEMA will review applications for eligibility and compliance with all application requirements in the SBSRF NOFO through a multi-step process, outlined below.

Compliance Review

FEMA will evaluate applications for eligibility and completeness to ensure compliance with program requirements, as outlined in the NOFO, and statutory funding limitations.

Application Evaluation Criteria

FEMA will rank all complete applications based on how well they match the evaluation criteria. Answers to the application's activity-specific questions provide information used to determine each application's ranking relative to the program priorities.

Review and Selection Process

SBSRF applications will be reviewed through a two-phase state and federal review process for completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, feasibility, and how well the Investment Justification (IJ)(project description and justification) addresses the identified risk(s).

State Review

The SAA is the sole entity authorized to submit SBSRF applications to FEMA on behalf of the state and subrecipients. The SAA reviews subaward applications to ensure they meet the legal, financial, and programmatic requirements set forth by FEMA and the state's guidelines before submitting them on behalf of the state to DHS/FEMA. FEMA will review applications based on the evaluation criteria to ensure eligibility and compliance with all application requirements provided in the NOFO as well as apply the following programmatic criteria:

- Activities proposed are only those identified as allowable in the NOFO.
- The applicant demonstrates their capacity, either organically or through a partnership, to provide each allowable activity proposed for funding.
- Proposed deliverables are consistent with the objectives and priorities of program.
- Project timelines are realistic, attainable, and conform to the performance period of program.
- Proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and cost-effective in relation to proposed activities.

The applicant possesses the capacity to manage a federal award consistent with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.

Final Application Ranking

The final selection process consists of an eligibility review and technical review before recommending applications for an award. Final ranking of applications will be created, and the review panel will use the final results to make funding recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security. All final funding determinations will be made by the Secretary of Homeland Security, who retains the discretion to consider other factors and information, such as indicators of the greatest need or operational impact, in addition to the review panel's funding recommendations.

Resources

There are a variety of resources available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions including:

- The SBSRF NOFO is available online at www.fema.gov/grants as well as www.grants.gov
- For SBSRF specific questions, please email FEMA-SBSRF@fema.dhs.gov

- For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the FEMA Award Administration Help Desk at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.