State Border Security Reinforcement Fund Frequently Asked Questions

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.

General

1. What is the purpose of the FY 2026 SBSRF?

Through SBSRF, DHS will provide financial assistance to State Administrative Agencies for construction of border walls and barriers, ground preparation for construction and maintenance, detection and interdiction of illegal substances and unlawful aliens, and relocation of unlawfully present aliens.

2. What legislation authorized funding for SBSRF?

The Working Families Tax Cut Act of 2025 (Public Law 119-21) authorized federal funding for the SBSRF.

3. How much funding is available under SBSRF?

SBSRF makes $9,985,436,000 available to eligible applicants.

4. Where is the SBSRF Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) posted?

The SBSRF NOFO is available online at www.fema.gov/grants as well as on www.grants.gov.

5. Who is an eligible applicant?

Eligible applicants are State Administrative Agencies.

6. When is the application deadline?

The SBSRF application period opened on June 4, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET. The application period will close on August 3,, 2026, at 5 p.m. ET. Applicants must submit their application through FEMA's Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) system.

7. How do applicants apply?

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 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 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 p.m. ET on August 3,2026.

8. What are the allowable costs under SBSRF?

SBSRF allowable activities include, but 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.

9. What is a Period of Performance (POP) and how long is the POP for SBSRF?

The POP is the amount of time recipients have to complete proposed projects. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred, and products or services be delivered within the award's POP. For SBSRF, the POP is 164 months: January 20, 2021 - September 30, 2034.

10. What should an applicant do if they're going to miss the application deadline?

If an application is delayed due to technical difficulties outside of an applicant's control, exigent or emergency circumstances, or statutory requirements, FEMA may extend the application deadline upon request. Applicants must contact FEMA as soon as possible and before the application deadline. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that good cause exists for the extension.

11. Is this the only time SBSRF funding will be available in FY 2026?

Yes, this is the only FY 2026 SBSRF. Any future SBSRF funding is determined at the discretion of Congress.

12. What do applicants need to do to prepare before submitting an application?

Register the organization in SAM.gov as soon as possible. After registering, SAM.gov assigns a Unique Entity ID (UEI) to the entity, which is required for the SBSRF grant application and the entity's FEMA GO account. If the organization is already registered, verify the registration is up to date, not expired, and has the correct contact information. Expect to allow up to 30 days to receive an assigned UEI.

13. What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions?

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.

Subapplicants and Subrecipients

14. Who is considered an eligible subapplicant?

Under the FY 2026 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 listed in the NOFO, are local governments as defined by 2 C.F.R. § 200.1

15. What is needed to apply for funding with subapplicants?

Applicants must submit their subapplicant's detailed budget information, along with supporting details, to be considered for SBSRF funding.

16. Are recipients required to provide funding to subrecipients?

No, there is no requirement to provide funding to subrecipients.

17. Can FEMA help manage subrecipient activities?

It is the responsibility of the recipient to manage their subrecipient's spending, services provided, etc. FEMA is unable to engage in any organizational/managerial aspects of recipients' and subrecipients' working relationships with each other. Subrecipient management guidelines are established in the subaward agreement. For more information on subaward agreement requirements, please see 2 C.F.R Part 200.