



To: Distribution List

From: Susan De Los Santos, Faculty Research Support Officer
Monica Fishel, Faculty Research Support Officer
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: DHS S&T Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center of Excellence – Center Lead

Date: August 7, 2014

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Office of University Programs (OUP) requests applications from U.S. colleges and universities to serve as a lead institution for a Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center of Excellence (CIRC). OUP is also posting a separate FOA for eligible applicants to submit single project proposals for consideration as a partner to this Center of Excellence (COE). Please see FOA Number DHS-14-ST-061-COE-CIRC-001B or CDFA #97.061 on <http://www.grants.gov> for directions on how to submit single project proposals. DHS may add individual project partners from applications received for either the Center Lead FOA or the Center Partner FOA to the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center. The DHS COEs are university consortia that work closely with DHS to conduct research, develop and transition mission-relevant science and technology, and educate the next generation of homeland security technical experts. DHS COEs operate using a unique research management approach where researchers work alongside operational and decision-making personnel to explore opportunities and enhance capabilities. Each COE is led by a U.S. college or university and has multiple partners. COE partners include other academic institutions, private industry, DHS components, DOE National Laboratories and other Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), other federal agencies that have homeland security-relevant missions, state/local/tribal governments, and first responder organizations. DHS envisions the COEs as long-term trusted academic partners that provide an array of resources to help DHS achieve its missions, and carry out its operations. The COEs that make up the COE network are listed at <https://www.dhs.gov/st-centers-excellence>. The new Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center will be a fully-integrated component of the COE network and will take advantage of the network's resources to develop mission-critical research, education, and technology transition programs.

DHS intends to award up to \$4,000,000 (subject to availability of funds) per year for 5 year. There are two funding opportunities associated with the Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center of Excellence award: (1) one for Center Lead (DHS-14-ST-061-COE-CIRC-001A) and (2) one for Center Partner (DHS-14-ST-061-COE-CIRC-001B). A total of up to \$4 million per year is available for the selected Center Lead and Partner applications. DHS may allocate up to \$500,000 of the up to \$4 million Center Lead award to Partner awards. DHS reserves the right to select research and education projects submitted in response to the Center Lead FOA and/or the Partner FOA and combine them to create the desired research and education portfolio for the new Center of Excellence. DHS awards only one grant of up to \$4 million per year to the Center Lead Institution to manage all COE projects, including those selected by DHS from other Lead or Partner

proposals. Proposals must be received through grants.gov no later than 09/23/2014 at 12:59:59 PM EDT. Please see the following website for further information: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=258673>

This is a limited competition; DHS will accept only one (1) application for Center Lead from any single university for review. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: DHS S&T - your name. No late submissions will be considered. The preproposal will be evaluated based on the following: A description of 1) the strategic approach for achieving the overarching vision, mission and goals for this Center, 2) the Center's research and workforce development themes and topics, and 3) examples of the Center's potential results and how those results may benefit specific homeland security stakeholders.

The narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated PI CV**. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Susan De Los Santos (sdelossa@unm.edu or 277-0272) or Monica Fishel (mlfishel@unm.edu or 277-8114).

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.