

DHS / FEMA COUNTER-UAS GRANT PROGRAM | FY2027

Countering The Threat: Drone Security Industry and SLTT Grant

FEMA released the FY2027 Counter-UAS Grant Program funding notice on October 16, 2026. The second \$250 million round is open to every state and territory, and state applications are due November 16.

\$250M

Total funding in the FY2027 round

56

States and territories eligible

\$0

Cost share required

Nov 16

State application deadline (5 p.m. ET)

Drone Security Is More Than Counter-UAS

Detection and mitigation are one part of a drone security program. A complete program also covers airspace awareness, telling authorized flights from unknown ones, written policy, public notification, and coordinated response across agencies. The grant funds planning, organization, training, and exercises as well as equipment. FEMA's targets for this round are about 70% equipment, 10% contracted C-UAS services and 20% training.

How the Funding Reaches Your City

Each State Administrative Agency (SAA) submits one proposal for the entire state, combining every local agency's request into projects totaling 150% of the state's allocation. Cities, counties and other local agencies do not apply on their own, and local needs are funded only when they are part of that package. Contact your SAA now and ask for its internal deadline, which may come well before November 16.

Round one went to the 11 FIFA World Cup host states and the National Capital Region. FY2027 opens funding to every state and territory, with a strong focus on the LA28 Games and torch relay. Projects supporting NSSE or SEAR 1 or 2 events between 2027 and 2029 can earn up to 40 of 100 points.

Eligible subrecipients include city and county agencies, police and sheriff's offices, correctional agencies, fire, EMS and emergency management. Regional groups can also receive funds when they name a law enforcement or correctional agency to operate each mitigation or RF detection system. Make sure the state's plan names your NSSE and SEAR-rated events, major venues and critical infrastructure.

Expect a short window. Round one ran from October 28 to December 5, 2025, with awards December 30. This round runs 31 days, from October 16 to November 16, with awards expected December 10.

What to Expect in the FY2027 Round

Eligibility	All 56 states and territories, with one proposal per SAA.
Funding	\$250 million total. Allocations were made per state and are included in the NOFO.
Cost share	None.
State retention	SAA's may keep up to 3% for administration, plus up to 20% for state-level equipment and activities with justification. With written agreement, states may provide services to local agencies in place of cash.
Eligible costs	Planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises for drone detection, tracking, identification, and mitigation. Contracted C-UAS services, including wide-area detection and data-sharing services, are allowable. General licensing fees and recurring operating costs are not. DHS strongly encourages radar. Mitigation equipment must be mobile (handheld, vehicle- or trailer-mounted), not permanently installed.
Training	Agencies must be accredited before operating mitigation or some RF detection systems. They adopt a policy, complete legal counsel review and attest through the Federal C-UAS Coordination Portal, renewed annually. RF systems that access drone control signals require NCUTC Detection and Warning certification, while radar, EO/IR, acoustic, passive RF and Remote ID sensors do not. Mitigation operators need NCUTC Mitigation certification (or enrollment) and an FAA Part 107 certificate.
Timeline	Applications due Nov 16, 2026. Awards expected Dec 10, 2026. Performance period runs through Dec 9, 2029.

Based on the FY2027 C-UAS Grant Program NOFO (DHS-27-GPD-161-01-99), released October 16, 2026.

What a Comprehensive Drone Security Posture Looks Like

POLICY

An adopted policy

A counsel-reviewed agency policy covering personnel, data handling, and public notification.

PARTNERSHIP

A regional plan

Coordination with the county, neighboring jurisdictions, venues, and state agencies.

INTEGRATION

A shared operating picture

Sensors, drones, and agencies on one airspace picture, with data-sharing rules agreed in advance.

READINESS

Trained, accredited staff

Certified personnel and a plan to fully implement within six months of award, which earns full points for timely implementation.

Five Steps to Take Now

- 1 Contact your SAA.** The state submits one proposal, due November 16. Ask for the SAA's internal deadline. If your region's needs are not in the state's plan and risk assessment, they will not be funded.
- 2 Build your regional partnership.** Bring in your county, neighboring cities, correctional facilities, stadium and venue operators, and critical infrastructure partners, and agree on how your region feeds the statewide plan. Name the law enforcement or correctional agency that will operate each mitigation or RF detection system, and plan for the NOFO's mutual aid requirement supporting the LA28 Games and other national events.
- 3 Plan your common operating picture before you buy.** Decide how sensors, drones, and agencies will share one airspace picture across jurisdictions. Start by listing what you already have: drones, DFR docks, real-time crime center feeds, and detection sensors. Wide-area services earn points when they share data with federal partners, cover at least 100 square miles and include a service that has applied for or received FAA NTAP approval for UTM services.
- 4 Get trained and accredited.** The FBI Detection and Warning course is free and online. Mitigation requires training at the FBI National Counter-UAS Training Center. Agencies earn accreditation by adopting a policy, completing legal review and attesting through the Federal C-UAS Coordination Portal each year. Enrollment allows purchase, not operation. Your FBI field office C-UAS coordinator can help you start.
- 5 Plan your approvals and paperwork.** Identify any council or board votes needed to accept federal funds. Subapplicants must also submit bios and resumes for leadership and board members.

DATA ACCESS IS NOW REQUIRED

Every grant-funded detection system must give DHS access to detection events, tracks, Remote ID and sensor metadata, and agencies must write that requirement into their vendor contracts. Plan how your data will be shared before you buy.

RESOURCE | LOCAL POLICY TEMPLATES

DRONERESPONDERS publishes a fact sheet and drafting checklist for the six required policy elements under 6 C.F.R. § 124.6. Detection-and-warning-only agencies can adopt an abbreviated policy (§ 124.6(g)), such as George Mason University Police Policy 610.

LESSONS FROM ROUND ONE | KANSAS CITY

Kansas City worked with Airspace Link through the FIFA World Cup and applied ahead of most host cities. Today 15 federal, state, and local agencies share one airspace picture in AirHub® Portal. Agencies funded in round one can apply again to expand capabilities, as long as the request doesn't duplicate what's already funded.

[Read the Case Study >](#)

\$11.4M

in detection and radar infrastructure

15

agencies sharing one airspace picture

Dozens

of drone seizures during the tournament

How Airspace Link Can Help

PLANNING RESOURCES

Case studies and pricing

Case studies, product information and budgetary pricing to help your region plan its request.

PLATFORM

AirHub® Portal

One common operating picture for sensors, drone operations, coordination, and response across jurisdictions, and your system of record for C-UAS compliance.

AIRSPACE DATA

FAA-approved services

FAA-approved LAANC, B4UFLY and UTM services, including NTAP approval (#2025-0012), a scoring criterion in this NOFO.

PROCUREMENT

Vendor-agnostic hardware

Detection, radar and counter-UAS hardware through our partner network and cooperative agreements, aligned to the Authorized Systems List, with American-made options where required.

Start Planning Your Application

Questions about your region's part of the state application? Email marketing@airspace link.com.

Contact Us



SCAN TO CONTACT US