The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced that the St. Louis Urban Area has been awarded funding from the FY 2016 Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA) grant program. $1,474,716 will be awarded to the East-West Gateway Council of Governments on behalf of the region.

The CCTA grant program places focus on a single scenario event, creating a specific goal for regional agencies and will help improve response gap identification, planning, training, and exercise capabilities with the intention of preparing communities for a complex and coordinated attack.

Using CCTA funds, scenario based discussions will be held with local responders and community leaders with the intent to improve the quality and speed in which decisions will be made should a terrorism incident occur anywhere in the region. Bringing together local law enforcement, SWAT, Bomb & Arson, and emergency medical into an integrated response structure is a significant component of our proposed program.

Another objective will include developing a broader recognition of the St. Louis Regional Fusion Center Terrorism Early Warning Group and its role as a prevention, protection, and response resource. CCTA grant funds will also provide training to front line responders, critical infrastructure members, dispatch centers, and the broader community on how to provide information quickly so decisions about terrorist activities can be acted on will be key to a CCTA response. Additional covered objectives in the region's grant application includes force protection during a response as well as improve policy/command & control decision making.

The CCTA grant has a 3 year period of performance; we expect the start date to be within 60 days of today. The attached DHS Grants Program Directive Bulletin provides a listing of the other communities that received the CCTA award, which includes the Kansas City Urban Area.

Staff wants to thank everyone who assisted with developing the grant application. Your hard work helped to achieve the goals of this program and in making the St. Louis region a more prepared community.