

The Civil Information Sharing (CIS) Humanitarian Emergency and Disaster Response Planning Project: A Program to Assist Communities in Kansas

Problem/Issue Statement

The current pandemic, climate change and natural events like the recent four county wildfires underscore the collective impacts on our economy. They have highlighted the fragility of a number of critical systems and infrastructures across our state. Kansas requires the means to prepare for potential crises with essential emergency response services. Those services require a modernized approach to prepare, train, equip and integrate efforts across multiple domains and organizations. Establishing a common emergency response framework for planning, knowledge management, response and mitigation requires faster methods for gathering data and sharing essential information. Statewide, an enhanced civil information sharing capacity is needed at all levels and includes food & agriculture, information technology, energy, healthcare, emergency services, transportation, and communication systems.

The Kansas Response Plan of 2017, underscores the importance of a unified statewide effort to prepare for and effectively deploy resources where needed and, when necessary, restore critical systems and services.

Request Description

K-State's College of Agriculture Department of Ag Economics and the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center request \$400,000 to support a pilot project in collaboration with the Civil Information Sharing Project and West Point's Center for the Study of Civil-Military Operations to assess the value of integrating a DoD-developed data system for use by Kansas stakeholders, the Kansas National Guard and civilian emergency managers. This funding will support K-State researchers including faculty and students over a two-year period in collecting and analyzing data on a segment of the Kansas Agricultural industry, assessing critical gaps and conducting analysis to improve statewide response.

Request Goals and Expected Outcomes

This project will help modernize and fill an information discovery, sharing and decision-making gap by leveraging and implementing a U.S. Department of Defense data collection and analysis system for use across statewide entities engaged in the Kansas response framework.

The collaborative project provides multiple benefits including 1) supporting state-wide efforts to plan, respond to and mitigate events impacting the state's economy, 2) simplifying gathering disparate information and common data mapping, 3) filling data collection gaps and information sharing, 3) establishing a modernized integrated system for decision making, and 4) providing feedback to the data system developers guiding future enhancements.

Appropriations Subcommittee

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Homeland Security

Request Type

Funding Request Bill Language Request