



STATE OF WISCONSIN \

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Wisconsin Emergency Management

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INFORMATION & GUIDANCE MEMO
01-04-03

DATE: January 21, 2003

TO: County Emergency Management Directors

FROM: Edward J. Gleason
Administrator

SUBJECT: CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAM INFORMATION

On November 20, 2002, counties were briefed on the Citizen Corps Program and its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program component. Attached is information on the Citizen Corps Programs and an application form for applying for program funding. In addition to counties, other local municipal entities including cities, villages, towns, Indian tribes, unincorporated towns or villages, or other public entities are eligible to apply for Citizen Corps Program funding.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) component of the Citizen Corps Program is a stand-alone program with its own funding source. To apply for CERT funding, use Wisconsin Emergency Management's (WEM) standard training form or contact Jerry Haberl, WEM Training Officer at 608-242-3213 or e-mail at Jerry.Haberl@dma.state.wi.us.

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is requesting the County Emergency Management Director's assistance in providing information to local communities relative to the Citizen Corps Program and the availability of this funding. (This **outreach** is considered to be a part of the County's commitment if applying for FY 2002 Supplemental Planning funding.) To this end, enclosed with this Information and Guidance Memo is a copy of a **news release** on the Citizen Corps Program and availability of grant funding that we are requesting be provided in a timely manner to each of the county's news media contacts.

The Citizen Corps Councils will help drive volunteer efforts by coordinating citizen corps programs and expanding and creating opportunities for citizens to get involved in emergency preparedness and response efforts. Major disasters in a community can overload the capability of first responders, especially during the first 12 to 72 hours of the response. Having citizens who are better prepared to take care of themselves and others during times of crisis will allow first responders to focus their attention on the most critical, life-threatening situations. These

volunteers also may play an important role in smaller emergencies or in public education campaigns.

The primary focus of this initiative is to create public education, training and volunteer opportunities to support community and family safety. While the Citizen Corps project consists of several programs, the cornerstones of the initiative are the creation of the Local Citizen Corps Councils. The Citizen Corps effort will be coordinated at the local level by a Citizen Corps Council, which will bring together leaders from the relevant sectors of the community. The purpose of the council is to have all decision makers at the table to manage existing volunteer resources and to direct the overall Citizen Corps initiative in the community.

In Wisconsin's grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), we proposed to identify pilot organizations (see eligible applicants) to participate in the Citizen Corps Program. WEM's goal is to promote the creation of councils throughout Wisconsin. We will allocate funding to promote these councils in the most equitable manner possible consistent with award criteria identified on page 2 of the Citizen Corps Program Information enclosure.

Wisconsin will receive approximately \$56,000 in funding for local Citizen Corps initiatives. Applications should be submitted by February 28, 2003. Please see the attached "Citizen Corps Program Information" sheet for additional information on program activities, eligible applicants and the grant application process. If you have questions regarding this Information & Guidance Memo or on the Citizen Corps Program, please contact Margie Weigle or David Jones at (608) 242-3232.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Citizen Corps Program Information
- Grant Application for Citizen Corps Councils
- Sample News Release: Citizen Corps Programs in Wisconsin

DISTRIBUTION:

- Maj. Gen.(WI) Albert W. Wilkening, TAG
- WEM Management & Staff

*Previous Information & Guidance Memo 01-03-03, Policy for Receiving Funding to Purchase Radios from Wisconsin Emergency Management Funding Programs.