

Northern Virginia Emergency Response System

Call for FY 2026 Project Concept Proposals

Overview

The Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS) Steering Committee is accepting project concept proposals for federal fiscal year (FY) 2026 funding consideration.

Proposals submitted in response to this call require formal endorsement from a discipline committee(s) as a prerequisite for consideration by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee strongly recommends that project sponsors engage their discipline leadership, and representatives on the Steering Committee, to ensure proposals are in the best interest of the sub-region and align with strategic priorities. As outlined in the evaluation criteria (see below), projects that build preparedness and response capability and/or capacity across disciplines and jurisdictions may receive more favorable evaluations. Conversely, projects of limited benefit to a single discipline, or have been developed without attempts to engage discipline leadership or Steering Committee representatives, may not be favorably evaluated.

The Steering Committee has approved a Project Concept Proposal Worksheet (Appendix A) to provide project sponsors with a standardized approach when submitting proposals for consideration. Project sponsors may request technical assistance from NVERS staff in compiling their proposals by sending an email to fy26@nvers.org.

If the Steering Committee recommends a proposed project for funding, and the Board of Directors accepts the recommendation, the Board of Directors will determine the resources necessary to support the project proposal. Based on funding requests and strategic priorities, the Board of Directors may choose to fully fund the project, partially fund the project, fund the project out of alternate funds, defer the project, or reject the project for funding.

Timeline

Project sponsors requesting proposal consideration under this initiative must submit a completed Project Concept Proposal Worksheet (Appendix A), **no later than the close of business Monday, June 1, 2026.**

- *Note: Concept forms may be accepted on a rolling basis, until the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released.*

Project sponsors **may** be asked to attend the **Monday, June 22, 2026, Steering Committee meeting**, to answer any questions regarding their submitted proposal.

Discipline committees should anticipate reserving time during their May 2026 meetings to discuss, and as appropriate, evaluate and/or rank, the projects broadly, but also provide their endorsement for projects seeking sponsorship.

Discipline representatives to the Steering Committee will review and evaluate submitted proposals during their June 22, 2026 meeting. The Steering Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Eligibility

Only NVERS-affiliated project sponsors within the eligible Urban Area may submit a project concept proposal under this initiative. Project concepts may not be sponsored by individuals with a financial or business interest in the proposed initiative.

The Steering Committee must have a substantial role in the execution of the proposal and not simply be a pass-through funding mechanism. Funding must comply with all grant terms and conditions. Projects must be sub-regional in nature and build or enhance capacity/capability across Northern Virginia jurisdictions and disciplines.

Additional Guidance

To be considered for review by the Steering Committee, all fields in the proposal worksheet must be completed. NVERS staff are available to provide technical assistance in the development of proposal worksheets for any project sponsors who require it. Project sponsors may submit multiple proposals; however, each proposal must be submitted separately to receive consideration.

The Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC) has provided additional guidance for the FY 2026 process, to include:

- Requested funding may not be used to sustain current, grant-funded initiatives that have been slated for transition to local funding on July 1, 2026.
- Projects must be one-time¹ initiatives with no out-year grant sustainment costs.
- Requested funding may not be used to support personnel positions.
- Projects must be quickly executed (e.g., limited to equipment and/or one-time procurements).

An award for the National Capital Region (NCR), as well as the grant's period of performance, is unknown currently. When developing proposals, project sponsors should consider the feasibility of completing all suggested deliverables within what may be a restrictive period of performance. Moreover, anticipated project spending must occur within the allotted timeframe.

The Steering Committee welcomes innovative proposals that bolster the region's preparedness and response capabilities. The Steering Committee is particularly interested in proposals that build capacity/capability across discipline and jurisdictional boundaries. ***To that end, the Steering Committee strongly encourages project sponsors to align their proposals with gaps, risks, and priorities identified in:***

- ***NVERS Casebook (Appendix B)***
- ***HSEC Regional Guidance (Appendix C)***

¹ "One-time" initiatives may be a "continuation" of a project previously funded (e.g., mobile vehicle barriers) but is an initiative that does not require annual or out-year spending to maintain.

- ***NCR Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (Appendix D)***
- ***Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities***
 - *As articulated in previous UASI NOFOs.*
- ***National Priority Areas***
 - *As articulated in previous UASI NOFOs.*

Proposal Evaluation

Gated Criteria

1. The completed Project Concept Proposal Worksheet was submitted by an eligible project sponsor no later than the close of business on Monday, June 1, 2026.
2. The project proposal is sub-regional in nature, supporting capacity and/or capabilities across Northern Virginia jurisdictions and/or disciplines.

Evaluative Criteria

1. The project proposal addresses an identified preparedness/response gap demonstrated through regional planning documents such as the *NVERS Casebook*, *HSEC Regional Guidance*, or *NCR THIRA*.
2. The project proposal articulates a clear purpose and end-state/outcome.
3. The project proposal is regionally applicable and has been socialized with discipline leadership and/or Steering Committee representatives wherever possible.
4. The project proposal has a significant impact on the ability of Northern Virginia to collectively mitigate, prepare for, and/or respond to acts of terrorism or other major emergencies.
5. The project proposal articulates a reasonable, plausible budget.
6. The project proposal describes an approach for quick execution.
7. The project does not require annual sustainment costs.

Instructions

All templates and reference documents may be found at: <https://www.nvers.org/fy26>.

Project sponsors should completely fill out each field of the Project Concept Proposal Worksheet (Appendix A) and email the completed form to fy26@nvers.org by the close of business on Monday, June 1, 2026. Projects should receive endorsement by a discipline committee(s) prior to submission.

Project sponsors, or a delegate, may be asked to attend the Monday, June 22, 2026, Steering Committee meeting, to answer any questions regarding their submitted proposal. NVERS staff will coordinate the requests, as needed.