

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

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### Georgia's Plan for Homeland Security

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In the Amended FY 2002 and FY 2003 appropriation recommendations, the Governor provides funding to match available federal dollars for Georgia's Plan for Homeland Security. Due to the events of September 11, 2001, much scrutiny was given to the current coordination of terrorism prevention and preparedness by various state agencies.

As part of the recommendation, the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) will be created, constructed and equipped. There is a recognized need to establish a single point, state level contact for collecting, analyzing and disseminating credible threat intelligence, information, and data from and to government agencies, the private sector and identified infrastructure targets. Staff from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Public Safety, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Department of Human Resources Division of Public Health, Georgia Technology Authority, Georgia National Guard, the Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Military will operate the GISAC and will produce daily situation reports, special analyses, warnings and bulletins as necessary. \$1,022,488 was recommended as the state's portion of a 50% federal match to construct the GISAC in amended FY 2002. \$377,000 in matching funds is recommended in FY 2003 in the Department of Public Safety to equip the center. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety is currently serving as the Director of Homeland Security for the State of Georgia.

Another component of this recommendation is to provide additional staff and associated expenses to the Department of Public Safety, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigations to handle the increased responsibilities associated with the operation of the GISAC and other related activities. An additional \$795,744 state match was recommended in the amended FY 2002 budget for the three agencies and \$1,298,238 state match is recommended in the FY 2003 budget. \$75,000 in additional funding match for amended FY 2002 will allow the Department of Natural Resources to more adequately equip the current emergency preparedness and response staff. Along with the additional funding in amended FY 2002, \$141,762 state match is recommended for FY 2003 for additional equipment needs.

Part of the Homeland Security Plan will be addressed by the Division of Public Health by enhancing preparedness and detection activities and enhancing the response capacity. Various changes such as increasing the number of and investigation capacity of district epidemiologists throughout the state, training public health staff and community partners to recognize and respond to bioterrorism, and enhancing traditional disease surveillance mechanisms and rapid communication, notification, and collaboration with federal agencies such as Centers for Disease Control and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. A total of \$698,750 is recommended in amended FY 2002 and \$2,060,000 in FY 2003 to match federal funding for bioterrorism preparedness and response for the Division of Public Health.