REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT CONTRACTOR

Economic and Emotional Impact of an Active Shooter / Hostile Events
12 February 2020

Background: Active shooter and hostile events have become an unfortunate reality in American life. These tragedies deeply impact emergency responders, who suffer life-long impact. Despite that victims, and entire communities, also suffer from these impacts, there is little information available on the cost of these impacts to support resource allocation and public policy.

All public safety departments in the United States must recognize the possibility that they may be called upon to respond to an active shooter event. From major urban areas, like Las Vegas NV and Orlando FL, to small hamlets like Sutherland Springs TX, communities of all sizes and demographics are now represented in the cities and towns that have had to respond to and recover from these traumas. All public safety departments are ultimately impacted.

At the same time, local decision makers are increasingly seeking better data to demonstrate the value of budgeting decisions. Where that information is lacking, needs often go unaddressed. Better information on costs—and recommendations on preparedness, training, and recovery practices that may mitigate those costs—will help public safety leaders justify the investment of more resources to be ready for active shooter and hostile event type incidents. The weak link that demands to be addressed is the lack of information needed to get more resources to help public safety departments mitigate their costs associated with these types of events.

In 2018 alone, public safety departments have responded to at least eight of these incidents around the country (according to data published by the Washington Post of shootings were four or more people were killed by a lone shooter). These tragedies deeply impact the victims and leave profound marks on entire communities, but they uniquely impact emergency responders, whose duties bring them into direct contact with these horrific traumas.

As well documented in the press after the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, a number of emergency personnel involved in the response to that event suffered lasting mental health impacts. This toll is felt acutely by the individual sufferer, but it is also felt by the departments, which must bear the costs associated with expanded mental health resources, staff turnovers, early retirements, and staff reassignments.

Research Goal: The overall project goal is to establish a sustainable quantitative approach to identify and measure the economic and emotional impact of events that are addressed by NFPA 3000, Standard for an Active Shooter / Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program. The objectives are:

1) Establish valid economic measures for emergency responders;
2) Quantify short- and long-term emotional impact on emergency responders; and
3) Justify resources needed for preparedness, training, equipment, & other critical needs.
Research Team Participants: This project involves the following research partners:

- Fire Protection Research Foundation serving as the project’s lead organization providing (1) overall project administration, (2) appointment and handling of the project advisory panel, (3) the design, implementation, and documentation of the project workshop; and (4) Coordination of outreach of project deliverables.
- Contractor developing (1) the project’s baseline materials and primary report, (2) presentation, review and refinement of project deliverables at the stakeholder workshop, (3) presentation of the project deliverables to the Technical Committee responsible for NFPA 3000.

This Request for Proposal addresses the role of the project contractor.

Project Meetings: An advisory panel will provide oversight and guidance over the course of the project in accordance with the Foundation Policies, and will be administrated by the Foundation. Participation and discussion is required by the project contractor in four conference calls with the advisory panel to review progress at critical stages of the project as follows: (1) at project initiation to review the work plan, project scope and other project details; (2) to review the literature and information review in Task 1a-1d, (3) prior to the project workshop to review baseline materials; and (4) near the end of the project to review final project deliverables. Panel conference call documentation will be handled by Foundation.

The project will include a workshop to review the preliminary baseline materials to enable its constructive refinement. The project contractor will provide the preliminary baseline materials for review and discussion at the workshop. The logistical arrangements, implementation, and documentation (i.e., proceedings) of the workshop will be handled by the Foundation, with a venue to be identified in coordination with the advisory panel and impacted stakeholders.

Contractor Project Tasks: Conceptually, this project will seek to address the following issues, to be reflected in the final project deliverables:

1) Identify the relevant impacts on public safety departments, as well as available data and methodologies to estimate their costs in dollars;
2) Develop a framework to benchmark costs, and identify gaps in data;
3) Relying on the framework, complete three case studies, selecting communities of different sizes and demographic compositions;
4) Establish recommendations for planning, training, and recovery for event response that could help reduce or avoid costs; and
5) Disseminate methodology/framework, case studies, and recommendations in appropriate venues.

Subject matter expertise of the two main topic areas covered by this project (economic and emotional) is considered a strength. To address these issues, the contractor will engage in the following project tasks:

Task 1: Baseline Materials. Develop and analyze all baseline materials for the project, which will include all of the following:

a) Review relevant literature to support applicable economic analysis methodologies / frameworks that could be used to quantify these impacts.
b) Identify and categorize the types of impacts experienced by public safety departments in the aftermath of responding to these events, including interviews with public safety department leadership and publicly available records.
c) Identify and document data (and potential sources of data) needed to quantify the impacts.

d) Recommend a methodology / framework for use in case studies.

e) Provide an interim update to the Panel.

f) Identify and conduct a case study analysis on at least three different jurisdictions, with assistance from the advisory panel. These communities should have public safety departments willing to participate; be of varying sizes and demographic characteristics; and have experienced an event that could be addressed by an ASHER program. Collect the data required by the framework and estimate the cumulative cost of each event to the public safety department.

g) Provide an interim report to the project oversight panel identifying the proposed impacts within the scope of the analysis, available data sources, and recommended economic analysis methodology or framework for case studies.

Task 2 Workshop. Present and review the project deliverables at the stakeholder workshop. The Foundation will lead this effort to plan, implement, and document a workshop with stakeholders and other emergency responder organizations to review the draft content developed in Task 1. This in-person meeting will bring together the project advisory panel and additional stakeholders to review and provide direct feedback on the draft project deliverables. The workshop will review the proposed methodologies, identify gaps, prioritize actionable needs, and generate recommended enhancements to approaches for quantifying short- and long-term measures due to economic and emotional impact. The workshop proceedings will be developed by the Foundation. Attendance at the workshop is targeted to be at least two-dozen participants.

Task 3 Finalize Project Deliverables. Based on the feedback and guidance from the workshop, the project research team will further revise and update the project deliverables and generate enhanced versions of the baseline materials. This material will be reviewed by the advisory panel to clarify and confirm final enhancements to the project deliverables.

Task 4 Final Reporting and Outreach. The final project deliverables will include a demonstrated methodology for evaluating the economic and emotional impact of events addressed by an ASHER program. All of this will be available via the Foundation website. In addition, an executive summary report will be generated that documents the overall effort. Access to these final project deliverables will be open. The availability of the materials will be broadly circulated through the extensive outreach venues of the project partners and will include a presentation to the NFPA 3000 Technical Committee.

Implementation: This project will be conducted under the auspices of the Foundation in accordance with Foundation Policies and will be guided by a Project Technical Panel of stakeholders and subject-matter-experts who will provide input to the project, recommend contractor selection, review periodic reports of progress and research results, and review the final project report. Project contractors must comply with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) specific acknowledgements and assurances.

Deliverables:

a) Interim report of the baseline information from the baseline materials in preparation for review at the project workshop. This report will include all relevant data collected for the project including for the case studies.

b) Draft final report including refinement as a result of the review from the project workshop.

c) Final report for the project.

d) Executive summary for the project.
e) **Dissemination** – presentation to the NFPA 3000 Technical Committee

**Intellectual Property:** The Research Foundation will retain rights to all project deliverables, including a final report and workshop proceedings which will be published on the Foundation website.

**Tentative Schedule and Costs:** The project timeline is approximately seventeen months in accordance with the following table:

- Proposals Due: 13 March 2020
- Selection of Contractor: 27 March 2020
- 2nd Panel call: August 2020
- Workshop: March 2021 - May 2021
- Final Deliverables: August 2021

This is a fixed price project in the amount of $120,000, which includes travel to the workshop and any related in-person meetings. This magnitude of financial support represents the work that is expected. Since this funding is provided through an AFG Fire Grant, the effort requires a contribution of a five percent cost share that will be the responsibility of the contractor. Documentation will be required (i.e., invoice) that clearly indicates the full magnitude of the work provided, including the five percent cost share that will be contributed by the contractor.

**How to Respond:** Letter proposals (not to exceed six pages) shall be submitted electronically to Amanda Kimball, Executive Director of the Foundation, at akimball@nfpa.org no later than 5:00 pm Eastern time **13 March 2020.** For additional details see the Research Foundation Policies for the Conduct of Research Projects, the Foundation Operating Principles, and Research Project Guidelines for Contractors on the Foundation website at: www.nfpa.org/Foundation. Each proposal shall include a description of the following which will be used as the basis for proposal evaluation: scope and approach, problem understanding, technical merit, prior relevant experience and personnel expertise, budget (including five percent cost share), and dissemination and distribution strategy. This is a fixed price project in the amount of $120,000, which includes travel to the workshop and any related in-person meetings or presentations.

**Note:** This project will proceed only on the basis of receipt of a proposal deemed acceptable to the Foundation. Information on the Foundation’s policies for the conduct of research can be found on the Foundation website at: Research Foundation Policies for the Conduct of Research Projects.