To support homeland security, public safety, and justice information sharing, the Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) Fiscal Year 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program (FY05 HSGP), Office for Domestic Preparedness' (ODP), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is currently requiring all FY05 HSGP grantees to use the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative's (Global) Justice Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model (Global JXDM) specifications and guidelines regarding the use of XML.

Extensible Markup Language, or "XML," is an open-standard base that allows agencies to exchange data, regardless of computer system or platform. Interoperability among the justice and public safety communities has been foundationaly accelerated by XML through the development and integration of the Global JXDM, a benchmark in justice XML standards that expresses the baseline data needs of justice and public safety communities and their related partners. Conformance to Global JXDM ensures that a basic core set of information is well understood by the justice community and carries the same meaning.

Developed by the Global Initiative, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the Global JXDM represents a significant change in the way practitioners develop their information sharing systems. Through the use of common, well-defined data elements that are understood system to system, the Global JXDM enables access from multiple sources and reuse in multiple applications, allowing justice and public safety communities to effectively exchange information at all levels.

The Fiscal Year 2005 HSGP Program Guidelines and Application Kit is now available online at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/05hsgp.pdf. The FY05 HSGP provides a single application kit and program guidance for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), the Citizen Corps Program (CCP), the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), and the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program Grants. Through the HSGP Program, local and state emergency prevention, preparedness, and response personnel will receive over $2.5 billion in grant funding to enhance and improve our nation's homeland security efforts.

New and returning applicants may apply for the FY05 HSGP through the Grant Management System (GMS), available online at https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov/. Instructions regarding electronic submissions through the GMS are provided on the OJP Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm. Assistance with the GMS may also be obtained by calling (888) 549-9901. The completed FY05 HSGP application must be submitted via GMS no later than January 16, 2005.

For additional information, please contact your Preparedness Officer or the ODP Helpline at (800) 368-6498.