

STATE AND LOCAL
ACTIONS FOR
HOMELAND
SECURITY



OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JULY 2002



OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Dear Friends:

Since the tragic attacks of September 11th, states, counties, cities, towns, and Indian tribes have devoted significant effort to addressing homeland security. From improving response capabilities to increasing security of vital facilities and expanding coordination and information sharing with the federal government and neighboring jurisdictions, all have taken these important steps at significant cost to their treasuries at a time when budgets are extremely tight.

The *State and Local Actions for Homeland Security* recognizes the critical measures that state and local governments are taking to improve homeland security. The information in this report has been written and provided by states, territories, cities, counties, and the District of Columbia; it has been compiled by the White House Office of Homeland Security. A list of counties and cities that provided important information to the White House Office of Homeland Security appears at the end of the respective sections. No single document could adequately capture the resolve of America; nor could it catalog the comprehensiveness of the public-sector response to the threat of terrorism. This does, however, present a snapshot of the actions being taken at the state, county, and city levels, including efforts to provide security, maintain public safety, protect public infrastructure, and respond to the consequences of terrorist attacks through disaster relief and public health agencies.

All disasters are ultimately state and local events. A key objective of the *National Strategy for Homeland Security* is to develop a framework that ensures vertical coordination between local, state, and federal authorities so that our actions are mutually supportive and communities receive the assistance they need to develop and execute comprehensive counter-terrorism plans. Partnerships at every level of government, and with the private sector, are key to the success of the homeland security effort.

I am confident that readers of this document will agree that as a result of the collective response, our citizens are safer and our communities are better prepared to respond to future terrorist attacks. The entire Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the men and women – governors, mayors, county leaders, legislators, tribal leaders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, emergency managers, public works employees, civil servants, and volunteers – who are responsible for this impressive national response.

Sincerely,

Governor Tom Ridge
Homeland Security Advisor

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