

Legislative Efforts

As the year progresses it is becoming more apparent that FEMA's Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY25 money will remain on hold despite court rulings to the contrary. Since its inception, ILEAS has primarily been funded through federal HSGP money, with additional state money coming through Illinois' Preparedness and Response (PAR) grant since 2019. Additionally, as of this writing on 06/22/2026, FEMA has yet to issue a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY26 funding (normally released in April). There have always been concerns raised and plans formulated to try and secure additional funding sources that could collectively sustain ILEAS should there be a discontinuation or interruption from FEMA. Recent events have prompted ILEAS staff to increase efforts to connect with legislators, lobbyist, interest groups and other emergency service and mutual aid organizations to stress the significant obstacle we are facing. Efforts have included:

- Testified before a budget committee in Springfield on March 19 in support of HB4144. This bill would have created a funding bridge for ILEAS and MABAS between anticipated needs and federal awards.
- Attendance at the IEMA-OHS hosted Legislative Day at the Capital on April 16. ILEAS staged a number of special team vehicles for any legislator or member of the public to inspect and ask questions. Singled out for special thanks helping ILEAS that day is:
 - o Ricky Smith of Berwyn PD – Bearcat
 - o Nathan Toepper of Kankakee County – MFF Truck
 - o Justin Long-Croteau of Springfield PD – F350 Truck and Trailer
- In cooperation with MABAS, we began a push to encourage an increase in PAR grant funding from **\$10 million** to **\$12.5 million**.
- Along with our staff, we began a weekly conference call with our lobbyist John Millner, MABAS lobbyist Michael Zalewski and MABAS CEO Bernie Lyons. The purpose was to have routine check ins and brainstorm ideas as well as plan future actions to ensure we are all on the same page.
- 911 Surcharge discussion – We have been able to establish a relationship with the 911 associations to include ILEAS, MABAS and now ISP in requests to increase downstate surcharge rates to meet the needs of all four organizations.
- We have had contact with a number of House and Senate partners from past relationships and support garnered by our open house last August.

Requested Board Action:

No motion is necessary. ILEAS staff wants to keep the Governing Board as up-to-date as possible and encourage continued support whenever the opportunity presents itself.

ILEAS FY25/FY26 Homeland Security Grant Budget

Each year, ILEAS staff prepares and submits a budget request for the coming fiscal year. This usually coincides with the federal announcement of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Homeland Security Grant Program. Recall that last year, we submitted a budget request for **\$5,690.582** for FY25. When the NOFO was released, there was a significant reduction in funding for Illinois which required ILEAS to make significant changes. An already reduced budget was further cut to reach an agreed amount of **\$4,366,380.48**. Later when it was time to receive the funding awarded, the program was unexpectedly cut even further to a level that triggered court intervention. After judicial review, FEMA was ordered to make the awards at the level announced in the NOFO. Instead, an appeal was filed. After continued significant delay they elected to withdraw their appeal filing on 05/07/2026. At this time, all submissions for FY25 HSGP are listed as “under review” and therefore no funds have been delivered. Below is the ILEAS FY25 budget request.

Grant	2025 SHSP	2025 UASI	2025 Total	REDUCED From Original Submission to IEMA	% Change from Original Submission to IEMA
Statewide L.E. Mutual Aid Response (CAR)	477,689.00		477,689.00	0.00	
ILEAS Training	906,175.79		906,175.79	-131,858.21	-12.70%
ILEAS Communications	225,231.63		225,231.63	-382,611.26	-62.95%
ILEAS Planning	1,301,621.95		1,301,621.95	-342,106.05	-20.81%
Special Teams ILEAS	1,455,662.11		1,455,662.11	-467,626.00	-24.31%
Total	4,366,380.48		4,366,380.48	-1,324,201.52	-23.27%
				0.00	

It is now time to submit our request for FY26 funding. Normally, the NOFO would have been announced and we would have an amount of funds allocated to Illinois to work towards for planning purposes. This is yet to happen forcing all IEMA-OHS dependent agencies to complete their budget requests with the expectation that there may be a need to make significant cuts to their programs. ILEAS staff have prepared our budget request, a summary of which is listed below. This is our original submission to IEMA-OHS with the fifth column showing the amount of increase requested. Once the NOFO is announced and actual budget work begins, we may need to make adjustments which will be communicated to the board once known.

Grant	2026 SHSP	2026 UASI	2026 Total	\$ amt.	% Change
Statewide L.E. Mutual Aid Response (CAR)	\$ 477,689.00	\$ -	\$ 477,689.00	\$ -	
ILEAS Training	\$ 1,005,761.05	\$ -	\$ 1,005,761.05	\$ 99,585.26	10.99%
ILEAS Communications	\$ 412,378.95	\$ -	\$ 412,378.95	\$ 187,147.32	83.09%
ILEAS Planning	\$ 1,527,662.10	\$ -	\$ 1,527,662.10	\$ 226,040.15	17.37%
Special Teams ILEAS	\$ 1,496,919.37	\$ -	\$ 1,496,919.37	\$ 41,257.26	2.83%
Total	\$ 4,920,410.47	\$ -	\$ 4,920,410.47	\$ 554,029.99	12.69%

Requested Board Action:

Staff request approval of this budget submission to IEMA-OHS for FY26 HSGP funding allocation.

FY27 PAR Grant Request

During this year's budget preparation, the Governor included **\$10,000,000** funding for the Preparedness and Response Grant (PAR). PAR grant funds come from the state in the form of an Intergovernmental Agreement between ILEAS and IEMA-OHS and not the federal government. They have been part of our annual budget preparation since 2019. These funds are available for the single budget year they are awarded in and **must** be spent and equipment **received** before the last day of the fiscal year. In the case of PAR FY27, that would be June 30, 2027. This initiative has been especially welcome as the funding from the federal government has been significantly reduced in recent years. PAR money is proving to be a real life-line to continue the mission of IEMA-OHS and ILEAS as well as all other task force members.

At the time of this writing, (06/15/2026) a great deal of uncertainty consumes our future planning. Based on earlier communications with IEMA-OHS, we have worked hard to propose two different PAR plans in order to be prepared for two different scenarios.

The first would be a conventional submission that included operational needs and large equipment purchases and upgrades. Below is what was submitted to them on 9 June, 2026.

FY27 PAR ILEAS			
Project	Cost	Scalable	ILEAS
ILEAS MFF Equipment Truck (2)	\$420,000.00	Y	1
ILEAS MFF Personnel Equipment	\$80,000.00	Y	2
ILEAS Bomb Suit Replacement (4)	\$175,000.00	Y	3
ILEAS Tactical Aerial Drones (3)	\$66,000.00	Y	4
ILEAS Operational Costs	\$70,000.00	Y	5
ILEAS IT Projects	\$20,000.00	N	6
ILEAS Less Lethal Munitions	\$75,000.00	Y	7
ILEAS Special Team Veh Maint.	\$50,000.00	Y	8
ILEAS Training Center Equipment	\$40,000.00	Y	9
	\$996,000.00		
Communications Project	Cost	Scalable	ILEAS Priority
ILEAS Recurring Costs/Services	\$57,000.00	N	1
ILEAS Starcom Subscription	\$132,000.00	N	2
ILEAS Starlink Subscription	\$32,000.00	N	3
ILEAS PSAP/EMA Starcom 21 Radio	\$175,000.00	Y	4
ILEAS Special Teams Comms	\$155,000.00	Y	5
ILEAS Cache Radios	\$200,000.00	Y	6
ILEAS Comms Update/Maint.	\$50,000.00	Y	7
	\$801,000.00		
Special Teams Projects	\$996,000.00		

Communications Projects	\$801,000.00		
Total	\$1,797,000.00		
UCP/ITECS update & Maint	\$250,000.00	Y	
	\$2,047,000.00		

The second submission was more aligned to what funds would ILEAS need to stay operational should federal funding be significantly be reduced or even eliminated altogether. In that proposal, an initial request of nearly \$4.1 million was relayed to IEMA-OHS grant manager Bob Evans and his staff. There has been communication with ILEAS finance staff to work on reducing this number which is in progress. The end result remains undecided as everyone works towards a deadline to continue operations without a clear indication of a deadline or possible award date. The purpose of this purchase outline is to at least map out a plan for the board to see what we are attempting to accomplish but also to educate you on the possibilities of having to abandon this in order to shift to a survival mode.

The PAR grant funds should become available on 1 July, 2026. I am recommending that the board approve the PAR grant award from the state in whatever form it is awarded. If allowed, ILEAS staff will prioritize purchasing equipment and funding projects outlined in the first proposal. If instead the PAR award must be applied to ILEAS operational costs, the staff will begin that process quickly. Approval will allow ILEAS staff to act without delay to begin the administrative process and purchasing outreach to ensure all funds are expended or committed as quickly as possible.

Requested Board Action:

Staff requests a motion to accept the FY27 PAR grant award once finalized by IEMA-OHS if substantially consistent with awards from previous years.

Annual Dispatch Contract Renewal

Mutual Aid Dispatch

ILEAS uses Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCDS) in Arlington Heights (primary) and Peoria Dispatch in Peoria (backup) as the ILEAS mutual aid contact and dispatch centers. These dispatch centers and their staff are absolutely vital to the ILEAS model and serve as the single point of contact for agencies in need for immediate assistance. The agreement between and them and ILEAS is renewed annually. A 4% increase has been factored in.

Requested Board Action:

Staff requests that the Board approve the execution of contracts for mutual aid dispatch services for:

- Northwest Central Dispatch from **\$27,040** to **\$28,122** for the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
- Peoria Dispatch from **\$6,760** to **\$7,030** for the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Lease and Use Agreement between ILEAS and Champaign Co. Regional Planning Commission

Recall at the 30 March, 2026 meeting, this board approved two agreements between ILEAS and the Champaign Co. Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the local MTU 12. The first was a lease agreement for the use of two unused offices within the A wing of the training center. The second was an outlined planned to pay a set fixed rate for specific classroom and facility use. This second agreement called for an annual payment of \$8,000. The start date for these agreements is 1 July, 2026.

Since then, MTU 12 Director Koontz and his staff have effectively moved into their space with no difficulties. However, since entering into the agreement, they have had additional time to review and reconsider the decision to enter into a fixed annual rate for use of training space. In practice, a number of the limitations and notification requirements that we needed to add to the agreement were problematic when put into actual practice in the opinion of the MTU. They have come to believe that it would actually suit their needs better to just return to the previous method of renting out space on an as needed basis and paying as they go.

Requested Board Action:

No action necessary. Information only

ICJIA Less Lethal Alternative for L.E. Grant

The Less Lethal Alternatives for Law Enforcement (LLA) grant is winding down and will come to an end in a few days (June 30th).

Over the last three years ILEAS grant staff have worked diligently to maximize the reach of the Less Lethal grant, both in terms of devices being awarded and training being provided. While there have been some difficulties to overcome in standing up the program, and some disappointments that some of the smaller agencies were not able to move forward with the grant award due to other financial constraints not covered under the grant, overall, the Less Lethal Alternatives grant has been a tremendous success across the State

To recap the successes experienced during the current grant (FY24-FY26);

- Over 2500 Taser packages were awarded to 368 agencies across the State
 - Originally 404 agencies applied for and were awarded the grant. 91% of these agencies accepted and became recipients of the grant. The remaining agencies declined the grant for various reasons
- The grant has provided 64 free training classes to over 1700 officers across the State, providing instruction in Autism awareness, de-escalation techniques, Taser certification, and use of force.
- Regional Planning Coordinators have conducted over 300 on-site visits to recipient agencies gathering feedback on the grant program and providing information on training opportunities.

Moving forward, \$5 million in funding for the *Less Lethal Alternatives for Law Enforcement* grant was again appropriated by the Illinois State Legislature and signed by the Governor in the FY27 State Budget. ILEAS applied for, and was selected by ICJIA to continue administering the grant to law

enforcement agencies across the State. In anticipation of this designation grant staff conducted a survey among ILEAS member agencies seeking feedback on what less lethal devices agencies would be interested in acquiring if awarded the grant. By an overwhelming margin Tasers were once again selected as the device of choice.

Grant staff are prepared to begin moving forward with the new grant opportunity and are again expecting interest from agencies across the State, allowing for agencies to have alternative means for de-escalation when faced with violent or lethal encounters.

During the ICJIA Budget Committee meeting on 18 June, 2026 ILEAS was selected and confirmed to accept a **\$5 million** allocation to continue the *Less Lethal Alternative for Law Enforcement* grant.

Requested Board Action:

Staff requests approval to accept and administer the \$5 million FY27 ICJIA ***Less Lethal Alternatives for Law Enforcement*** grant.

NARCAN Grant Update and Purchase

To Re-Cap:

On September 30, 2025 the long-term collaboration between the Illinois Department of Public Health and ILEAS to acquire and distribute NARCAN and other products to emergency service providers across the state came to an end. The program had long been primarily funded with federal grant dollars and supplemented at times using state dollars. Once the federal government elected to discontinue supporting this initiative, the program came to an end. Bill DeJarnette had built a network of connections with representatives at IDPH and IDHS so that when the state was able to identify and allocate funding to revitalize the NARCAN mission, they immediately reached out to Bill and ILEAS. A great deal of work went into finalizing a budget and agreeing to quantities of product and expectations but eventually an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) was drafted. A final draft was signed into effect on 27 February, 2026. The state has allocated **\$100,000.00** to see this program run from 1 January, 2026 thru 30 June, 2026 with the intended goal of again purchasing a quantity of NARCAN product along with Fentanyl test strips, leave behind kit supplies, shipping costs and salary. Feedback from IDPH indicates that there may be possibilities for additional funding and future collaboration. This may lead to periodic updates to this IGA which the board will be notified of. The included budget outline for planned expenditures has been reviewed and approved by IDPH personnel.

And Now:

As anticipated, IDPH has indicated they have funding available with the intention of transferring those funds (**\$149,000**) to ILEAS to put to use before expiration on 30 June, 2026. ILEAS has been in contact with our NARCAN vendor who indicates that as long as purchasing is made before 24 June, 2026, they can meet the deadline for product delivery to the training facility. This plan is not without issues. It only includes the money to make a large product purchase but not fund the salary of our NARCAN project manager to then distribute and continue the program beyond June 30. There are current discussions that the state may be able to secure funding for NARCAN distribution beyond June 30 for July and August. There is also information that the federal program could possibly re-start in October. In either case, ILEAS is currently unable to cover the costs associated with salary

after June 30, meaning after purchase, this product may have to remain on site temporarily and either be distributed at a later date, or delivered to IDPH for them to administer. IDPH personnel are aware of the 24 June deadline and have promised additional information as quickly as possible.

ILEAS continues to review our options and weigh the possibility of future funding as more information is received. By the time of the board meeting, ILEAS will have either ordered additional NARCAN in a continued partnership with the state or will have paused/ended this program for now until funding is secured to include both product and personnel costs.

Requested Board Action:

Staff requests permission to purchase NARCAN pursuant to an amended award with IDPH for a cost that will exceed \$100,000 and also possibly enter into a new intergovernmental agreement should terms be presented that are acceptable to ILEAS.