

## What is Operation Stonegarden?

The OPSG Program supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), and local, Tribal, territorial, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. The OPSG Program funds investments in joint efforts to secure the United States borders along routes of ingress from international borders to include travel corridors in states bordering Mexico and Canada, as well as states and territories with international water borders.

### OPSG is intended to support Border States and territories in accomplishing the following four objectives in implementing the START Covert Solar solution:

- Increase capability to prevent, protect against, and respond to border security issues;
- Continue the distinct capability enhancements required for border security and border protection;
- Provide intelligence-based operations through CBP/BP Sector Level experts to ensure safety and operational oversight of Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies participating in OPSG operational activities;
- Continue to increase operational, material and technological readiness of State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies.

### In developing applications for OPSG, you are encouraged to consider national areas identified for improvement including:

- (1) Projects that address emerging threats, including cybersecurity; and
- (2) Projects that enable continuous operation of critical business and government functions including those essential to human health, safety, and/or economic security.

### The links below address Border Security funding in your region:



- **Texas Homeland Security Grants Division:** <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/hsgd>
- **Resources for Applicants and Grantees:** <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/resources>
- **Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2015-2020:**  
[https://www.dps.texas.gov/director\\_staff/txHomelandSecStratPlan2015-2020.pdf](https://www.dps.texas.gov/director_staff/txHomelandSecStratPlan2015-2020.pdf)



- **Arizona Department of Homeland Security Grants:** <https://azdohs.gov/grants>
- **Resources and Links for Applicants:** <https://azdohs.gov/grant-programs-resources-links>
- **Arizona Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2015-2020:**  
<https://azdohs.gov/state-homeland-security-strategy>



- **Homeland Security Grants Division:** <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/hsgd>
- **Operation Stonegarden (OPSG):** <https://www.homelandsecuritygrants.info/grantdetails.aspx?gid=21875>
- **Homeland Security Strategic Plan:** [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0702\\_plcy\\_dhs-strategic-plan-fy20-24.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0702_plcy_dhs-strategic-plan-fy20-24.pdf)

**PLEASE REVIEW THE FAQ BELOW ABOUT APPLYING TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP). QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT: TMOULTON@WMSRDM.COM**

**Q: How would you summarize the Project to implement START Covert Solar?**

A: START Covert Solar is a technology that will enhance border security and will assist local LEO's attempt to deny criminal actions therein to help promote their goal to provide a safe environment for all the citizens. This technology will be a force multiplier, allowing LEO to utilize their time on the denial of criminal activity rather than maintenance of systems intended to help broaden the area and effectiveness of their operations.

**Q: How do we need to create the problem statement**

A: [Area/County/Region] has [square miles] with [linear miles of border] to protect. [Area/County/Region] is [heavily trafficked/dangerous/high apprehension rate]. [Agency/Department] only has [number of Deputies/Agents], which is not enough to handle the criminal activity and maintain the technology used, such as replace batteries. While the technology of sensors, cameras and communications assets is a force multiplier, the covert nature is often compromised by human presence during the replacement of batteries and other maintenance activity.

**Q: What are Existing Capability Levels for camera systems?**

A: START Covert Solar testing shows that cameras taking an average of 100 photos per day can operate for only 30 days on battery power alone. The weather, number of photos taken, and signal strength can drastically effect this.

**Q: What are example Capability Gaps?**

A: Many departments at the border are already short-handed, even with camera and sensor systems. When applying for Federal grants for overtime, START makes the case that this overtime funding would be better spent focused on patrolling, making apprehensions, and humanitarian assistance of immigrants than on simply driving round replacing batteries on dozens or hundreds of system nodes.

**Q: What kind of impact can START Solar have at the border?**

A: START can maximize your law enforcements presence in your area of operation and reduce or eliminate gaps in operations of camera and sensor systems. The use of START Covert Solar will reduce battery replacement to almost zero. It will allow these systems to operate 24/7 while remaining concealed for extended periods of time. It will be a **force multiplier** by allowing your LEO to use the technology to monitor remote areas, while themselves having an impact in high traffic areas where a human presence is needed most.

**Q: What priority Homeland Security Priority Actions START Covert Solar cover?**

A: The most obvious priority would be 1.3.3 Expand the use of event-driven devices capable of detecting and responding to physical stimuli such as movement to maximize efficiency in monitoring the border, particularly in remote areas. However, be sure to review your local Homeland Security Strategic Plan to be certain.

**Q: How do we identify the target beneficiaries of this project?**

A: All citizens of [Area/County/Region] [breakdown of demographics] [List estimated number of immigrants kept safe] [if possible, state statistics of the increased safety and job satisfaction of LE personnel and surrounding counties]

**Q: What is the Long-term effect of using START Covert Solar?**

A: [Agency/Department] would not be able to provide enhanced patrols for border security due to major budget constraints. [Agency/Department] is very dependent on Federal and State Grant funding to respond to border security threats.