



# National Safe Skies Alliance

## Program for Applied Research in Airport Security

### Project Statement

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PARAS 0040-A and 0040-B

#### **Pandemic Response and Recovery for Airport Security Operations**

**Funds:** Up to \$400,000 in total for both phases

**Contract Time:** 6-12 Months

**Staff Responsibility:** Jessica Grizzle

**Fiscal Year:** 2021

*The Project Statement below has been selected by the Safe Skies Oversight Committee and will be the starting point for a panel of experts to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP is expected to be available in early 2021.*

Airports throughout the U.S. have adapted their security operations in a variety of ways in response to the current pandemic. While the airport's security posture has remained priority, changes to specific security compliance and related procedures were necessary to protect employees and the traveling public, and to limit the spread of the virus. Changes were implemented in areas such as credentialing, SIDA training, badge control/audits, access control, employee inspections, and public area security. Airport operators made these changes with limited guidance and must now evaluate the changes to determine lessons learned, successful practices, and available alternatives, as well as considerations for recovery and returning to normal operations. As the pandemic evolves, these processes and procedures must also evolve to ensure regulatory requirements are maintained effectively and efficiently.

The objective of this research is to create comprehensive guidance to assist airports in making informed decisions as the pandemic evolves to aid in recovery. In order to provide timely information to airports, the research will be phased. The initial effort will focus on the changes that have been implemented and associated considerations for each, including ASP and reduced air service impacts. After evaluation of the initial phase and if deemed appropriate, the subsequent effort will focus on detailed strategies and practices for recovery, including consideration of processes and procedures that may remain in place permanently, as well as future planning considerations.