



2024 Legislative & Policy Priorities

Emergency Management Performance Grant

The successes and accomplishments of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program are well-documented and measurable, and the program is an invaluable tool for local and state emergency management practitioners. Congress should continue to build emergency management capability and infrastructure at the state, local, and tribal levels by increasing funding for EMPG. To sustain the investments made during Covid, coupled with ever-increasing demands on emergency managers, Congress should codify one of the supplemental increases and fund EMPG at \$455 million in FY25 and beyond.

Disaster Survivor Fairness Act

The Disaster Survivor Fairness Act (H.R. 1796), if enacted, would be the first major update of Individual Assistance in years. The legislation includes a series of reforms that will improve disaster assistance programs and survivor outcomes by 1) Creating a universal application for federal disaster assistance and enabling federal agencies to share relevant disaster assistance information with each other; 2) expanding FEMA's ability to fund mitigation and repair projects for disaster-damaged homes; 3) requiring FEMA to develop new post-disaster solutions for renters; 4) supporting efforts to shelter working emergency response personnel immediately following a disaster.

Universal Application

The House and Senate are both working on legislation (S. 1528) to create a universal application for federal disaster assistance and enabling federal agencies to share relevant disaster assistance information with each other. This common-sense reform would make the process for applying for assistance from FEMA, HUD, SBA, HHS, and other federal agencies significantly easier for disaster survivors and would provide federal agencies the shareable data they need to process claims in a timelier fashion.

Wildfire Response Improvement Act

As wildfires persist and generate more widespread effects, they transform into hazards affecting entire communities and regions. The Wildfire Response Improvement Act (H.R. 7070) directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update its regulations and guidance for the Fire Management Assistance Grant, Public Assistance, and mitigation programs to better respond to the unique challenges of wildfires and improve wildfire mitigation. Congress should approve this bill before fire season starts.

PAHPA Reauthorization

The Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) is the backbone of our nation's health security, providing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with authorities for preparing the healthcare and public health systems for public health emergencies, including pandemics and bioterrorist attacks. PAHPA's authorization expired in September 2023 and is currently operating under a temporary extension of existing authorities. Reauthorization of PAHPA will give policymakers a unique and transformative opportunity to incorporate lessons learned from COVID into the law so that our public health systems are better prepared for the next public health emergency. Congress should work to complete PAHPA reauthorization before current authority expires.

National Weather Service

Capacity of the National Weather Service to provide support and cooperation to local emergency managers is critical to the safety of the communities we serve. Sufficient funding for NWS will allow the Service to support the emergency management community and provide decision support services during critical situations. Cuts in funding to the NWS will have a detrimental impact to the support the Service can provide to local emergency managers. IAEM strongly encourages Congress to oppose any budget cuts to the National Weather Service and the other weather-related functions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization

Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program is an opportunity for Congress to reduce the complexity of the program and strengthen the NFIP's financial framework so that the program can continue helping individuals and communities take the critical step of securing flood insurance. Congress should complete work on NFIP reauthorization before the end of the year.

Training and Education

While significant funding is provided through DHS/FEMA for operation of training programs intended primarily for first responders like fire and law enforcement, FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is the only federal agency specifically tasked with providing training support to emergency managers. Congress should continue building continuity and maintaining professionalism within the emergency management discipline by supporting the President's budget request for EMI and other training-related programs.

