



March 4, 2010

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### **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Funding**

**Action Requested:** Increase the funding to \$530 million to address the historically documented short fall as indicated by the NEMA biennial report and maintain it as a separate account.

**Issue:** The Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) should be maintained as a separate all-hazard program focused on capacity building for all-hazards preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation at the state and local levels. All disasters start and end at the local level, which emphasizes the importance of building this capacity at the local level. Funding from (EMPG) frequently makes a difference as to whether or not a qualified person is present to perform these duties in a local jurisdiction. The historically documented shortfall in these funds needs to continue to be addressed. EMPG was appropriated at \$340 million in FY 10, and maintained as a separate account. The Presidents request for FY 2011 is \$345 million.

The program is authorized at \$815 million in PL 110-53. EMPG is fundamentally different from Homeland Security grants; therefore it is necessary to continue it as a separate account. The authorization of EMPG is purposefully broad to allow jurisdictions to focus their attention on customizing capabilities for each local jurisdiction. FEMA's guidance should not try to make one size fit all. We urge that the FEMA guidance is written so as to allow maximum flexibility in meeting the specific capability requirements within each local jurisdiction.

- The program is intended to be funded at 50 percent Federal and 50 percent state and local.
- The program has been under funded for decades and remains so today with local emergency management programs significantly “over-matching” the available EMPG allocations.
- Katrina and Rita demonstrated that effective response and recovery efforts are critically dependent on a robust system of coordination and preparedness by agencies at all levels of government and the private sector. History has repeatedly shown that only through a comprehensive and integrated Emergency Management system do we have any hope of dealing with catastrophic disasters like Katrina. .
- EMPG, called “the backbone of the nation’s emergency management system” in an Appropriations Conference Report, constitutes the only source of direct federal funding for state and local governments to provide basic emergency coordination and planning capabilities including those related to homeland security. The program supports state and local initiatives for planning, training, exercise, public education, as well as response and recovery coordination during actual events.
- EMPG should not be combined with terrorism specific programs.

### **Strengthening FEMA**

**Action Requested:** For Congress to continue to insist on implementation of PKEMRA reforms to strengthen FEMA.

**Issue:** IAEM-USA continues to strongly support full implementation of PL 109-205, the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) of 2006. In order to fully implement PKEMRA, we believe the following actions need to occur:

- Continue to insist on the established emergency management doctrine – all hazards, integrated, all phases (preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery). The immediate past has demonstrated the folly of removing one element (preparedness) from the cycle.
- Ensure that the FEMA Administrator has the maximum amount of access to the White House.
- Ensure FEMA is clearly responsible for the coordination of the Federal response to disasters.
- Ensure local emergency managers have meaningful participation in the FEMA policy development process.
- Revise Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 to conform to the requirements of PKEMRA.
- Eliminate the artificial distinction between Incident Management and Emergency Management (as exemplified by the Office of Operations Coordination) as a mechanism to avoid the requirements of PKEMRA.
- Continue legislative limitations on the position of the Principal Federal Official (PFO) as it leads to confusion.
- Provide critically needed personnel to the FEMA Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. This office has the responsibility to provide information to its state and local partners, keep the FEMA divisions informed of state and local needs, seek input on policies and solve problems at an early stage. Currently this office has a total of only 4 or 5 employees at the headquarters level.

### **Emergency Management Institute**

**Action Requested:** Increase the funding for the Emergency Management Institute to a minimum of \$11.9 million for FY 2011. This is a \$2.9 million increase over the FY 2010 appropriated amount, and \$4.9 million over the President’s FY 2011 request. These funds will support continued enhancement of the field (G) and on-campus (E) courses, the development of other vital programs especially an Executive Emergency Management Program for state, local and tribal emergency managers, and the conversion of 13 CORE positions to full time positions.

**Issue:** The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) provides vitally needed training to State and local government emergency managers through on-site classes and distance learning. This “crown jewel” of emergency management training and doctrine has suffered from lack of funding and loss of focus on the primary objectives of the Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS).

- We are extremely encouraged at the renewed focus and efforts to update and enhance training programs over the past year with the funding support of Congress. We have observed commendable progress at EMI in the review of existing training programs, the revision of outdated courses, and the focus on the current and future needs in emergency management training. The highest priority for FY 2011 continues to be the revision and upgrade of the EMI core curriculum, including the Master Trainer Program, E-Courses

and G-Courses essential to the professional development of career emergency managers and state level training programs.

- We continue to support the highly successful Emergency Management Higher Education Program at EMI. This program works with colleges and universities to provide curriculum supporting the education of degreed emergency management practitioners as well as establishing and maintaining the essential collaboration between practitioners and the academic and research disciplines so essential to a comprehensive approach to emergency management.
- EMI remains in need of funding to address deferred maintenance and classroom technology upgrades. It is our understanding that the “National Emergency Training Center Facilities Master Plan” requested by Congress has been completed and includes a detailed listing of these maintenance needs.

### **PreDisaster Mitigation Program (PDM)**

**Action Requested: Reauthorization and appropriate funding of the PreDisaster Mitigation Program which will sunset on September 30, 2010. Urge additional information on programmatic details and administration be provided regarding the language in Congressional Budget Justification on linking PDM to the HUD Sustainable communities program.**

**Issue:** IAEM-USA strongly supports both pre and post disaster hazard mitigation. A Congressionally mandated independent study by the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council, a council of the National Institute of Building Sciences, showed that on the average, a dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation (actions to reduce disaster losses) provides the nation about \$4 in future benefits.

We are in need of additional information to understand the meaning of the following language from page PDM-1 of the DHS Congressional Budget Justification:

“Through a partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities initiative, the goal is to support strategic local approaches to sustainable development by coupling hazard mitigation with related community development goals and activities that reduce risks while protecting life, property, and the environment.”

One of the provisions of HR 3377, which has been ordered reported by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, would reauthorize the PDM program.

### **Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) Supplemental**

**Action Requested: Urge support for the \$5.1 billion supplemental request for the President’s DRF, which is administered by FEMA.**

**Issue:** On February 4, 2010, FEMA announced a policy of allocating disaster relief funds on an “immediate needs” basis (assistance to individuals, emergency protective measures, and debris removal). Funding for repair and replacement of facilities and mitigation unless already obligated to the state will be delayed until the supplemental is available.

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IAEM-USA is our nation's largest association of emergency management professionals, with 5,000 members including emergency managers at the state and local government levels, tribal nations, the military, colleges and universities, private business and the nonprofit sector. Most of our members are city and county emergency managers who perform the crucial function of coordinating and integrating the efforts at the local level to prepare for, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all types of disasters including terrorist attacks. Our membership includes emergency managers from large urban areas as well as rural areas.