



## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **SUPPORT BASELINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES**

#### ***Emergency Management Performance Grants***

*An additional \$116 million is required to allow all states and jurisdictions to fully-participate in this vital program. With the dollar-for-dollar match, EMPG allows state and local officials to manage 23,331 events last year without a Federal disaster declaration. Congress should accommodate a 5 percent increase (\$18 million) to close the funding gap.*

### **SUPPORT MUTUAL AID TO REDUCE DISASTER COSTS**

#### ***Emergency Management Assistance Compact***

*States helping each other in responding to a disaster in lieu of Federal asset drives down disaster costs. Expanding EMAC from \$2 million to \$4 million annually will allow for modernization, integration, and expansion of EMAC and national mutual aid.*

### **STRENGTHEN MITIGATION, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY PROGRAMS**

#### ***Implementing the Disaster Recovery Reform Act and Next Steps***

*Congress affected fundamental shifts in emergency management policy with the passage of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act in October 2018. Begin focusing on an effective implementation of the reforms and begin considering next steps to further streamline disaster response and recovery programs.*

### **REAFFIRM A COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS**

#### ***State Homeland Security Grants, and Education & Training Programs***

*Needless and unjustified cuts to preparedness programs undermines the ability of state and local officials to continually answer the Federal and national call to reduce risk, more readily respond to events, and build the leadership of tomorrow.*

## **SUPPORT BASELINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES**

### ***Emergency Management Performance Grants***

According to the NEMA Biennial Report for 2018, the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) requires an additional \$116 million for all states and eligible jurisdictions to fully-participate in the program. With a 50-50 matching requirement, the trust investment in this program is more than twice the Federal expenditure. But stagnated funding since FY12 instead drives-up the costs of disasters and requires Federal assistance when programs such as EMPG are far more economical.

In FY18, 66 disasters required a major or emergency declaration through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Beyond that, 23,331 events required state or local assets, but did not reach the level of a Federal declaration. Programs such as EMPG allow these events to be managed without additional Federal expenditures.

The President's FY20 Budget Request needlessly recommends a funding level for EMPG of \$279 million – a 20 percent reduction. Even the budget documents cite EMPG as a program helping “achieve target levels of capability in catastrophic planning and emergency management.”

### **Requested Action**

- In concert with local emergency managers, NEMA is requesting a 5 percent increase of EMPG from the current \$350 million to \$368 million to close the \$116 million funding gap and help all eligible states and jurisdictions fully-participate in the program.
- Members of both the House and Senate should ***include EMPG in Member Request Letters/Submissions*** to their respective Appropriations Committee during consideration of the FY19 budget. The below information may be of assistance in crafting the request:

ACCOUNT:	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
PPA:	Federal Assistance
PROGRAM:	Emergency Management Performance Grants
FY18 FUNDING LEVEL:	\$350,000,000
PRESIDENT'S REQUEST:	\$279,000,000
MEMBER REQUEST:	\$368,000,000 (not less than \$350 million)
JUSTIFICATION:	EMPG directly reduces the need for Federal assistance in responding to events requiring emergency management. With the 50-50 match requirement, any investment in EMPG is essentially doubled with state and local dollars.

## **SUPPORT MUTUAL AID TO REDUCE DISASTER COSTS**

### ***Emergency Management Assistance Compact***

States helping each other in responding to a disaster in lieu of Federal asset drives down disaster costs. This is the premise of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

**Background.** For over 24 years, EMAC has continues providing personnel, equipment, and commodities during a gubernatorial-declared disaster or emergency to assist with response and recovery efforts in other states. Since February 2017, states deployed over 23,700 personnel through EMAC in response to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Michael, Hurricane Florence, the Las Vegas Shooter, winter storms, wildfires, a measles outbreak, and other events. States also deployed liaisons through EMAC to the National Response Coordination Center and Regional Response Coordination Centers in coordinating the state EMAC response with FEMA and other Federal agencies.

**Investing in the Next Phase.** The current annual investment of \$2 million is the minimum necessary to support the system used to request and deploy assets; conduct planning, training and exercises; and complete after-action reviews of large-scale disaster activity. Given the continued growth of state-to-state assistance and reliance on EMAC by the Federal response system, the cost of administering the Compact continues rising to meet the increased demands. Additional funds will fully integrate EMAC within all emergency support functions; help States assess EMAC readiness and prepare for response; identify opportunities to include local emergency managers in assistance opportunities; ensure EMAC integration with ongoing risk assessments; and maintain the system utilized in deploying personnel and assets.

### **Requested Action**

- NEMA is requesting an increase in funding for EMAC from the \$2 million requested in the President's budget to \$4 million.
- Members of both the House and Senate should ***include EMAC in Member Request Letters/Submissions*** to their respective Appropriations Committee during consideration of the FY19 budget. The below information may be of assistance in crafting the request:

ACCOUNT:	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
PPA:	Operations & Support
PROGRAM:	National Protection Directorate
PRESIDENT'S REQUEST:	\$2,000,000
MEMBER REQUEST:	\$4,000,000 (not less than \$2 million)
JUSTIFICATION:	EMAC reduces the reliance on Federal assistance and drives down disaster costs by allowing states to help one another. The \$2 million increase will allow for modernization, integration, and expansion of EMAC.

## **STRENGTHEN MITIGATION, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY PROGRAMS**

### ***Implementing the Disaster Recovery Reform Act and Next Steps***

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) affected fundamental shifts in emergency management policy. With each major disaster season, however, emergency managers harness lessons learned. While the DRRA addressed many pervasive issues throughout disaster response and recovery doctrine, opportunities for improvement will always remain. NEMA recommends Congress continue the strong foundation of the DRRA and implement the following reforms expeditiously:

**Management Cost Rollover.** When managing disaster declarations, states and locals coordinate billions of dollars in Federal grants through FEMA. To help offset administrative requirements of these grants, regulations allow recipients to utilize a percentage for management costs. These management costs, however, are limited to each specific disaster and regulations do not allow grantees to economize by managing workloads across all open disasters.

**Recommendation:** Affect legislation allowing grantees to utilize management costs across all open disasters. This will help build emergency management capability across the country, speed the disaster close-out process, and drive-down the costs of disasters.

**Implementing the New Predisaster Mitigation.** The National Public Infrastructure Predisaster Hazard Mitigation program codified in the DRRA will forever shift the paradigm of mitigation funding in this country. Allowing six percent of disaster costs to fund predisaster mitigation, however, is a massive influx of funding for a program historically underfunded.

**Recommendation:** As Congress monitors program implementation of this DRRA provision, work with state and local stakeholders to fully consider short-, medium-, and long-term challenges and opportunities. Examples include the alignment of the state and local mitigation priorities, flexibility to move funds expeditiously, and the necessary authorities and technical assistance remain in place to support a nationwide mitigation system and ensure the efficacy of projects.

**Disaster Program Alignment.** After a disaster strikes, State and local emergency managers face myriad post-disaster recovery programs often with conflicting rules, timelines, and duplicative requirements. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when State and local officials are still dealing with the immediate consequences of the disaster. These administrative hurdles needlessly delay achieving a timely recovery.

**Recommendation:** Congress should require the Administration to deconflict Federal disaster assistance programs to ensure they maintain complementary requirements, are not overly duplicative, and wherever practical utilize requirements already achieved through other programs. One example of this should be requiring the Department of Housing and Urban Development accept FEMA mitigation planning for purposes of the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program.

## **REAFFIRM A COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS**

### ***State Homeland Security Grants, and Education & Training Programs***

In the wake of September 11, 2001, state and local governments immediately reorganized, realigned budgets, and acquired the necessary subject matter expertise to manage myriad Federal requirements and doctrinal changes in preparedness. The diversity and impact of the threats continue evolving, but the task remains the same – *assist the Federal government in achieving specific tasks and elevate the level of preparedness nationwide.*

**State and Local Commitment.** In August 2018, the National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC), representing 22 state and local associations, released a study demonstrating the return on investment of the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). This report, *Homeland Security Grant Return on Investment* showed that for every dollar invested by the Federal government, State fusion centers invested an average of \$2.39; state homeland security and emergency management agencies invested \$1.72; and local governments invested \$0.92. Furthermore, states facilitated a 124 percent increase in the number of advanced hazardous materials, incident management, and structure collapse/urban search and rescue teams. A follow-up study in 2019 will examine the value and scope of the specialized teams developed throughout the country.

**The Need for Federal Support.** The President's FY20 Budget Request recommends a 35 percent reduction in both SHSGP and UASI in addition to a \$125 million reduction in Education, Training, and Exercises. Programs such as the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) – both eliminated in the budget request – form the bedrock of preparedness efforts. For example, CHDS has:

- Awarded 1,107 Master's degrees to officials at all levels of government (including Federal) and maintains annual enrollment of approximately 160 students;
- Graduated 698 participants through the nine-month Executive Leaders Program and 1,048 in topic focused programs; and,
- Conducted 442 executive education seminars with Governors, Mayors of metropolitan areas, and their respective cabinets including over 17,000 participants.

Programs such as this is how baseline leadership is created. Homeland Security is constantly evolving and emerging due to new and changing threats. The nation should take pride in programs such as CHDS and all it can accomplish with only \$18 million.

### **Requested Action**

- Encourage Congress to reject the proposed 35 percent budget cuts to SHSGP and UASI programs and embrace the return on investment demonstrated by the NHSC report.
- Encourage Members of Congress support the continuation of education and training programs such as CHDS (\$18M) and the NDPC (at least \$98M) to further develop the leadership of tomorrow.