



March 19, 2011

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## FY 2012 Issues

### Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Funding

**Action Requested: Approve the President’s FY 2012 request for \$350 million to continue to allow local, tribal, regional, and state governments to build and maintain all hazards emergency management capability. Maintain EMPG 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. EMPG was appropriated at \$340 million in FY 2010, and maintained as a separate account. The President’s request for FY 2012 is \$350 million. The program is authorized at \$950 million for FY 2012 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 be 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 Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) reforms to strengthen FEMA. Even in a time of budget cutting, we need to continue to build a strong 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).
- 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.

## **Emergency Management Institute**

**Action Requested: Increase the funding for the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) located in Emmitsburg, Maryland to a minimum of \$11.9 million for FY 2011.** This is a \$2.9 million increase over the FY 2010 appropriated amount. These funds would support speeding the development and implementation of the Foundational Academy; continued updating and development of the field (G) and on-campus (E) courses; and, the development of other vital programs especially an Executive Emergency Management Program for State, local and tribal emergency managers.

**Issue:** Our disasters and emergencies are becoming more complex, and our State, local and tribal emergency management officials continue to assume additional duties and responsibilities. To meet these emerging challenges, new and updated training from EMI is imperative. A process of curriculum development and update implemented by an additional \$2.9 million in funding in FY 2010 allowed this process to start. Lessons are being learned which must be incorporated into our professional body of knowledge. We are pleased with the efforts of the past two years to overcome the previous years of neglect of EMI and all-hazards training.

- We are extremely encouraged by 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 a training development focus based on core competencies to expand national capabilities and appreciate the inclusion of stakeholders in this development. We applaud the concept of the Emergency Management Foundational Academy currently in development at FEMA for all new State, local and

tribal professionals in the field. Progress has been made in the review of existing training programs, the revision of outdated courses, and the focus on 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 in support of the Foundational Academy and the development of an executive management program.

- 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.

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

**Action Requested: Support the President's Budget Request of \$84,937,000.**

**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. Given the importance of this program, we are pleased that the Congress has reauthorized the program.

### **The National Weather Service**

**Action Requested: Adequate funding for the National Weather Service to avoid any decrease in personnel or service in support of state, local and tribal emergency managers at local National Weather Service Offices.**

**Issue:** Appropriately staffed local weather service offices and the critical infrastructure they need (e.g. NEXRAD radars, buoys (including tsunami detection stations), communication networks, internet, computer forecasts, NOAA Weather Radio, etc) are essential to protection of local health and safety and protection of property. Emergency managers are dependent on timely and accurate advice regarding the impact of weather and related emergencies on the communities they serve.

### **D-Block**

**Action Requested: Support allocation of D-Block spectrum for public safety and oppose auctioning of this vital asset.**

## **Issues in FY 2011 Long Term Continuing Resolution**

### **Emergency Management Performance Grants**

**Action Requested: Support Emergency Management Performance Grant funding at \$340 million, the FY 2010 level.**

**Issue:** HR 1 as passed the House would cut Emergency Management Performance Grants from FY 2010 level of \$340 Million to \$300 million. We urge this funding be restored.

### **National Weather Service**

**Action Requested: Appropriate funding for the National Weather Service (NWS) so as to not impact the support provided to State, local and tribal emergency managers at the local NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO).**

**Issue:** It is our understanding that if the NWS is reduced to the FY 08 appropriations level (\$899.665M) proposed in HR.1, as passed the House, that the program impacts would be severe. One possible action being considered would require a reduction of 440 FTEs or 9.5% of the entire workforce or a rolling 27 day furlough of every employee. This would require reduced office operations and rolling selective closures of WFOs which are so vital to public health and safety. The NWS infrastructure would also be severely crippled, affecting NEXRAD radars, buoys (including tsunami detection stations), communications, networks, internet, computer forecasts, and NOAA Weather Radio.

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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.