



➤ **Continue Support for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG)**

For four years, NEMA has worked tirelessly to demonstrate the return on the federal investment in emergency preparedness through the EMPG Return on Investment report. For every \$1 of federal investment, State and local emergency management organizations match at least that much to maintain a robust emergency management capability. NEMA strongly supports sustained funding of \$350 million and will continue to illustrate to Congressional leadership and the Administration the value of this program and how investments in EMPG reduces disaster costs and help protect lives and property.

➤ **Develop and Implement Comprehensive Preparedness Grant Reform to Better Address Risk**

NEMA continues to support reform to the suite of homeland security grants offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Administration proposed the National Preparedness Grant Program in three consecutive budgets but Congress and other stakeholders repeatedly expressed concern and the proposal was not adopted. NEMA remains focused on the needed reform and restructure of critical grant programs to achieve measurable results that secure our nation. An integrated and cost-effective grants system will allow the nation to be agile in confronting any threat to the homeland, whether it is natural, technological, or terrorist-related. The ultimate goal of these grants should be to allow grantees more flexibility to adequately address changing threats while also providing added accountability to Congress.

➤ **Urge Development and Implementation of a National Strategy for Reducing Future Disaster Costs**

The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) directed FEMA to develop a framework for a strategy to reduce disaster costs to the nation. While FEMA fulfilled the requirement under the law, NEMA believes the work has just begun and Congress should require the Agency to develop a full, actionable strategy. With the frequency and cost of disasters on the rise, only through coordination and an honest assessment of existing policies can we effect change in the fiscal commitment required by the nation.

➤ **Support Continued Funding for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**

Mutual aid is a cost savings to the federal government as it can lessen the need for federal assets during a response. EMAC is the first national disaster-relief compact ratified by Congress since the Civil Defense and Disaster Compact of 1950. Since ratification in 1996, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories have enacted legislation to become EMAC members. Annual line-item funding is critical for building EMAC capabilities and our nation's mutual aid system and should be sustained.

➤ **Coordinate Stafford Act Changes with the Emergency Management Community**

If Congress considers changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, NEMA and partners in the emergency management community should be consulted regarding any changes. Consultation will provide for a comprehensive review of any impact (intended and unintended) to states and disaster response. While some clarification or small changes may be needed to help FEMA and the emergency management community adapt to changing threats and hazards, the inherent flexibility built into the law should be maintained.