



July 10, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Stacking the Blocks

Much like this week's [Guinness World Record-breaking stack of Jenga blocks](#), the Appropriations process for FY21 continued this week and even added a new block when the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security sent a draft of the FY21 appropriation for DHS to the Full Committee ([summary and full bill text here](#)). The bill still needs to be approved by the Full Committee next week (Wednesday, 10:00am ET), but initial highlights include a \$30 million increase for EMPG (bringing the total to \$385 million) and robust grant funding for numerous other programs. Once the final bill and report language is reviewed by NEMA staff, a full summary will be sent to the NEMA membership. The other side of the Capitol has the Senate doing a lot of work behind the scenes, but not any official action on DHS as of yet. Regardless of how all this plays out, all signs point to another rousing game of "Continuing Resolution Roulette" to take the feds through the upcoming elections. Here's hoping the tower doesn't tumble.

Possibilities for additional coronavirus relief legislation continue to percolate around the new (mostly virtual) coffee chats on the Hill. The overall expectations remain largely unchanged, with the potential for an additional (though likely smaller) round of tax rebate checks and potentially additional aid for state and local governments. There are still wide gaps between the Senate GOP's general outline of a package capped at \$1 trillion and the House's previously-passed \$3.5 trillion legislation. Liability protections remain a challenge, with House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) expecting a compromise on the issue, but flatly rejecting a blanket indemnification of companies.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Selection of Recently Released Federal COVID-19 Resources

Understanding that it is a challenge to quickly review all the available grant programs for COVID-19, we are creating and updating a list of links for information on programs from FEMA, HHS, CDC, HUD, and others. While it is not comprehensive, it can be quickly consulted for resources on topics that have recently been of interest across the federal interagency including the recently released Treasury Memo for Coronavirus Relief Fund Recipients.

This will continue to be updated, but as of next week's dispatch the link will be located at the bottom in the *Other News from DC and Around the Country* section.

[Read More](#)

Alabama Director Testifies at House Hearing on the National Response to COVID-19

Alabama state director Brian Hastings testified on the state's experience responding to the pandemic and coordinating with state and federal partners and provided recommendations for a continually improving response now and in the future.

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Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide Comment Period Open

The comment period for the IAPPG is open until August 24, and some of the document's updates include authorization and eligibility criteria for Critical Needs Assistance and changes made by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

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GAO Preliminary Report on FEMA Response and Recovery for 2018 Pacific Disasters

The report includes preliminary findings on the status of disaster assistance and support for CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii after their cavalcade of disaster in 2018. GAO's work is ongoing and recommendations will be included in their final report.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

NPR: [States Prepare to Spend Millions to Address Flooding](#)

GovTech: [Syringes Will be a Key to a Coronavirus Immunization Campaign](#)

START: [Global Terrorism Overview: Terrorism in 2019](#)

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