



August 14, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Everyone To Their Corners

With Congress recessed until after Labor Day and no legislation agreed to, much remains the same this week in Washington. Talks on a fifth coronavirus relief package have fully broken down, with talks not expected to substantively resume until Republicans commit to a \$2 trillion package (currently the GOP's package totals approximately \$1 trillion). A top-line figure for how much weekly unemployment benefits would be is in sight but issues relating to how much money to give state and local governments or how to address Senate Majority Leader McConnell's (R-KY) red line of liability protections for businesses that open back up are still unsolved. School funding totals and how funding is apportioned also remain a challenge.

Current events are not any rosier for the Department of Homeland Security, which is still expected to be funded by Continuing Resolution through the year's end. Additionally, the Government Accountability Office released its finding that Acting Secretary Chad Wolf and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security/Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Ken Cuccinelli are serving under an "invalid order of succession" and the GAO will be referring the matter to DHS's Inspector General for further review.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA BRIC NOFO Webinar Schedule Released

As a follow-up from last week, the Fiscal Year 2020 [Notification of Funding Opportunity](#) for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) pre-disaster mitigation grant program is now available and the webinar schedule has been released.

Notice of Funding Opportunity Overview

- Tuesday, August 18 at 2-3:30pm EDT
- Thursday, August 20 at 2-3:30pm EDT
- Tuesday, August 25 at 2-3:30pm EDT

NOFO Overview for Tribal Applicants

- Thursday, August 27 at 2-3:30pm EDT

Avoiding Application Pitfalls

- Tuesday, September 1 at 2-3:30pm EDT
- Wednesday, September 2 at 2-3:30pm EDT

You can register for the webinars [at this link](#). Participation for each webinar is limited to 1,500 and the sessions will be recorded and available online at a later date.

GAO Recommends Considering a Pilot Program on Climate Migration

With millions of Americans living in coastal areas that are threatened by sea level rise, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluated federal funding programs that are related to the retreat or relocation of communities in less vulnerable areas. GAO found that federal programs provide limited support to climate migration efforts because they are designed to address other priorities and generally are not designed to address the scale and complexity of community relocation and they generally fund acquisition of properties at high risk of damage from disasters in response to a specific event.

So far, support climate migration efforts has been provided ad hoc at the federal level because no federal entity has the authority to coordinate assistance. Communities will rely on post-disaster assistance if no action is taken beforehand, increasing federal fiscal exposure. Risk management best practices and GAO's 2019 Disaster Resilience Framework suggest that federal agencies should manage such risks before a disaster hits. A well-designed climate migration pilot program that is based on project management best practices could improve federal institutional capability. A climate migration pilot program could be a key part of a strategic, iterative and risk-informed approach for the nation's most vulnerable areas, enhancing the nation's climate resilience and reducing federal fiscal exposure.

GAO recommended that Congress should consider establishing a pilot program with clear federal leadership to identify and provide assistance to communities that express affirmative interest in relocation as a resilience strategy. View the [highlights document](#) and [full report](#).

ASTHO Briefing Paper on Fighting Compassion Fatigue

With the pandemic now in its sixth month, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) released a brief on the challenges of maintaining compassion and empathy during public health crises to mitigate the development and impacts of "compassion fatigue".

[View the brief here.](#)

FEMA Risk MAP Guidance Review Update

FEMA regularly updates its standards and guidelines on the application of statutory and regulatory requirements for the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program. These standards also outline how to use Flood Risk Projects, how to process Letters of Map Change (LOMCs), and related Risk MAP activities. FEMA is conducting its review of all guidance, technical references, and other resources.

Documents up for review are available at the Risk Management Directorate [SharePoint](#) site. If you are a mapping partner with SharePoint access, please review and provide comments through SharePoint. If you do not have access to this site, please email FEMA-GS@fema.dhs.gov to request the documents you want to review.

Comments can be provided by September 4.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

[NEMA List of Recently Released Federal Resources](#)

Route Fifty: [The Worst of Hurricane Season is Likely Still to Come](#)

EDM Digest: [Reopening Strategies Require More Than Temperature Checks](#)

Business Insider: [COVID-19 Engulfing Prisons Shows Herd Immunity May be Messy](#)

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