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October 1, 2021



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: To Spend, or Not to Spend, That is the Question

On Thursday, just hours before the government was set to shut-down, Congress was able to pass a continuing resolution to extend funding the government through December 3. The passing of this legislation, [H.R 5305](#) includes several emergency management priorities including:

- \$50 million in supplemental funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants. This is one-year funds which will be in addition to the anticipated \$355 million to be regularly appropriated this year. GPD is already examining how best to distribute these funds, but in terms of available amounts, it's reasonable for states to expect half what they received during earlier \$100 million supplementals.
- \$5 billion in supplemental funding for CDBG-DR.
- Forgiveness of all Community Disaster Loans as of yesterday, September 30, 2021.
- The full year amount for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) is made available immediately and not limited to the December 3 date.

While the passage of this stopgap bill buys time for the Biden Administration to continue negotiations on its two-pronged budget approach, uncertainty looms over the passage of the infrastructure package and spending bill with Republicans united against the \$3.5 trillion price tag and moderate democrats against the measure as well. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has said that she will not bring legislation to floor without having the votes for it to pass, which makes her decision late Thursday night to delay a vote on the infrastructure deal that much more indicative of the divide among the House majority party.

Additionally, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) has suggested that he will not vote for any legislation that spends more than \$1.5 trillion, less than half what the hold-out Democrats are requiring before progressing the Biden Administrations infrastructure bill.

Is your head spinning yet? As if things were not complicated enough, there is also ongoing debate about the debt ceiling. In a September 28 [press release](#), Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced that the country would default if there was no debt ceiling increase by October 18. Republicans in the Senate have cut debt ceiling waivers from recent legislation, claiming the Democrats need to send the fiscal policy through the reconciliation process. Democrats have come out saying that they are not willing to go through this process, which would require them to codify a new debt ceiling limit number in statute. For the moment, the only thing certain, is the uncertainty on all of these measures...

### Hearings the Week of October 4, 2021

[Hurricane Ida and Beyond: Readiness Recovery and Resilience](#)

House Committee on Oversight and Reform  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 11:00am ET

[The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Response to Hurricane Ida](#)

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 10:00am ET

[Emerging Contaminants Forever Chemicals and More: Challenges to Water Quality, Public Health, and Communities](#)

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 11:00am ET

*More News from the Nation's Capital...*

### Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee Discuss Natural Disasters

On Wednesday, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC) held a hearing to discuss Addressing the Threat of Worsening Natural Disasters. During the hearing, NEMA President Sima Merick, was joined by the Red Cross, Association of State Floodplain Managers, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs in discussing what solutions they saw to issues in their respective fields. Merick focused on the importance of building state capacity, and NEMA recommendations on equity and simplifying FEMA programs. Senators shared in the concerns expressed about the bureaucratic slow-down of disaster response and recovery due to FEMA's processes and policies. Senator Hassan (D-NH) discussed the FEMA Integration Teams and how their role has improved recovery speeds, noting that this is something that could be looked to be expanded into all states. Hassan also reiterated her support for the NEMA/IAEM proposal for rolling over disaster management costs, a proposal her staff has indicated she may be amenable to introducing as legislation this year.

To watch this HSGAC hearing, or download any of the witness statements, you can visit the [HSGAC website](#).

### FEMA Announces the Opening of BRIC and FMA Application Periods

On September 30, the application period for the [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) and [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) programs will open. These two hazard mitigation grant programs total \$1.16 billion in funding to states, local communities, tribes and territories for eligible mitigation activities to strengthen our nation's ability to build a culture of preparedness. All applications must be submitted in the [FEMA Grants Outcome Portal](#) no later than 3pm ET on January 28, 2022.

### DHS Provides \$20 Million to Local Communities to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism

On Monday, DHS announced the awarding of 37 grants, \$20 million in total funding, under the FY 2021 Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant Program. The TVTP Grant Program is managed by DHS's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) and is a program dedicated to enhancing the capabilities of local communities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. This year's grant program prioritized the prevention of domestic violent extremism, including efforts to counter online radicalization and mobilization to violence. DHS Secretary Mayorkas had this to say: "Domestic violent extremism and targeted violence pose significant and persistent threats to our homeland. Attacks on schools, houses of worship, workplaces, and public gatherings threaten Americans' lives and inflict trauma on our communities. The Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program prioritizes investments that empower and equip communities across our country to prevent acts of violence before they occur."

You can find the full press release [here](#), and additional information about the awarded TVTP grants [here](#).

### DHS Announces the Formation of the Law Enforcement Coordination Council

On Wednesday, DHS announced the formation of the Law Enforcement Coordination Council (LECC) - the Department's first unified law enforcement coordination body - to comprehensively assess a broad range of law enforcement matters, including its law enforcement policies and training. Within the Council will be two sub-committees. One will review use of force policies, and the second will review law enforcement training techniques and curricula. NEMA and our colleagues at the National Governors Association (NGA) have already begun comparing notes on this proposal, so if any state director is supportive of, or has issues with, this proposal, please let the NEMA-DC staff know.

The full press release can be read [here](#).

### NOAA to Host 'Blue Economy Webinar' About Economic Growth and the Marine Ecosystem

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator, Dr. Rick Spinrad, and Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, Alejandra Castillo, will be speaking during a webinar hosted by the Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmospheres and NOAA on October 5. During this conversation, Castillo will be discussing how communities can leverage the Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge (\$1 billion) to spur their region's and revitalize Blue Economies, or the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs. Spinrad will be discussing NOAA's support of the Blue Economy, including the "New Blue Economy" - leveraging ocean data and information for sustainable business development in new and traditional ocean-based sectors. The New Blue Economy that NOAA aims to advance will provide communities and entrepreneurs with oceanic data to enable economic development based on sound science.

If you are interested in attending, you can register [here](#).

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

HSToday: [State of Incident Command: 9/11 Gave Us the System to Succeed, Wildland Fires Model How to Succeed](#)

The Hill: [Lawmakers Look to Include Cyber Incident Reporting Measure in Annual Defense Spending Bill](#)

CNN: [DHS Released Priority-Based Immigration Enforcement Guidelines](#)

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