



December 3, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: The Show Will Continue!

No government shutdown this time as Republicans and Democrats were able to come to an agreement on a bill that extends the continuing resolution that is funding the federal government. The bill, [H.R. 6119](#), was introduced early on Thursday morning, and passed that evening, and will keep the government funding at the current level till February 18. The only substantive anomaly to the bill was an additional \$7 billion in assistance to Afghan refugees in the legislation. A brief committee summary of the new CR can be found [here](#).

Congress adhering to the December 3 deadline could bode well for the body, which has a long list of priorities in the coming weeks, including raising or suspending the debt limit, the annual defense authorization bill, and the President's \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better Act currently in the Senate.

Additionally, this week the [2022 Congressional calendar](#) was released and can be found on the House Majority Leaders website.

Hearings the Week of December 6, 2021

[Ensuring Equitable Delivery of Disaster Benefits to Vulnerable Communities and Peoples: An Examination of GAO's Findings of the CDBG Program](#)

House Committee on Financial Services
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 10 am ET

[Biosecurity for the Future: Strengthening Deterrence and Detection](#)

House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 10 am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Announces New NAC Memberships

On Wednesday, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell announced the appointment of 12 new members to its National Advisory Council. These 12 members will serve multi-year terms beginning December 1 and will guide future recommendations centered around equity, climate change, and readiness. The membership of the NAC is comprised of 35 state and local officials, emergency managers, and emergency responders from different levels of government and the private sector. Collectively, these members will advise the Administrator on all aspects of emergency management to ensure input from and coordination with state, local and tribal governments and the private sector on federal plans, programs, and strategies for all hazards. Due to previous changes in the council's charter, this will also be the first time the NAC has a climate specialist member. Of the 12 members selected, 10 are new appointments and two are reappointments.

The full list of council membership can be found [here](#). NEMA state directors include Nim Kidd (TX), Brad Richy (ID), Tina Titze (SD), and Brian Hastings (AL).

FEMA Accepting Volunteers for FY21 BRIC Review Panel

FEMA is seeking volunteers from federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to participate on the national review panels for the Fiscal Year 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities subapplications. The agency is accepting Expressions of Interest from December 1, 2021, through January 14, 2022.

FEMA anticipates the panel increases transparency into the decision-making process for applicants, while building capability and partnerships with the panelists. These volunteers will leverage their experience and expertise during the review process to assess the degree to which sub-applications meet the six BRIC qualitative evaluation criteria. FEMA anticipates hosting the virtual panel 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET from March 7-25, 2022.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on these panels and meets the panel participant criteria, complete an [Expression of Interest Form](#) which can be found on the BRIC website.

FEMA Releases Interactive Online IPAWS Toolkit

On Tuesday, FEMA and DHS released an interactive, web-based version of the [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\) Program Planning Toolkit](#). The new free online tool will assist new and existing alerting authorities across the country to create and support an effective program for alerts, warnings and notifications. The new toolkit was produced based on recent innovative changes to technology and was derived from the collection of successful practices and lessons learned from hundreds of data points, including more than 200 emergency managers, public information officers, alerting originators and administrators and alerting experts.

You can find the full press release [here](#).

FEMA Extends Request for Information for NFIP

FEMA published a notice in the Federal Register extending the public comment on the National Flood Insurance Program's minimum floodplain management standards by 45 days from December 13, 2021, to January 27, 2022. In addition, FEMA scheduled a third public meeting at 3 p.m. ET on Dec. 15. The additional 90-minute virtual public meeting will also gather verbal public feedback on the Request for Information. Anyone may register for the December 15 meeting by visiting this [Webex webpage](#), advance registration is required.

The full release for this announcement can be found [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

USAToday: [Lots of Storms but a Slow Finish: Busy 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Ends Today](#)

HSToday: [Ohio Launches Office of First Responder Wellness](#)

Newsweek (opinion): [Adaptation Could Reduce Damage from Climate-Driven Storms by a Third](#)

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