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February 24, 2023



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Taking Our Positions

NEMA dove into several policy positions this week by sending a series of letters to DHS leadership, the Office of Inspector General, and FEMA Administrator. The first letter was sent to DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on grant guidance changes for fiscal year 2023. Specifically, NEMA is disappointed at the lack of stakeholder engagement prior to DHS increasing the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LEPTA) set-aside from 25 percent to 25 percent. The letter also made the point that carve-outs, such as ones for election security activities reduce flexibility for states to cover their most pressing needs and duplicate other federal program.

The second letter was sent last week to FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell and DHS Inspector General Joseph Cuffari on the COVID-19 declaration audit process. The letter asks the two components to work together and develop clear and consistent guidance in advance of the COVID-19 close-out process. The unprecedented pandemic forced our SLTT emergency managers to be flexible and adaptive, and the guidance should reflect that.

Both these letters can be found in the NEMA [document library](#) for members (make sure you're logged in to your NEMA account to access!)

Hearings the Week of February 27, 2023

[Every State is a Border State: Examining Secretary Mayorkas' Border Crisis](#)
House Committee on Homeland Security
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 10am ET

[Rising Seas, Rising Costs: Climate Change and the Economic Risks to Coastal Communities](#)
Senate Committee on Budget
Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 10am ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA and CBP to Hold Listening Sessions for Shelter & Services Grant Program

In the coming weeks, FEMA and CBP will be hosting multiple virtual listening sessions with stakeholders to discuss program requirements for the new Shelter & Services Grant Program. This grant program aims to support the sheltering and related activities provided by non-federal entities, including a limited amount for facility improvements and construction, in support of relieving noncitizen overcrowding in short-term holding facilities operated by CBP. FEMA will administer grants or cooperative agreements with tribal nations, state and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations. FEMA and CBP will work with these governments and organizations to identify eligible costs of providing temporary shelter and related services to individuals released from Department of Homeland Security custody. The two events are:

- [March 1, 2023, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET](#)
- [March 3, 2023, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET](#)

CISA Urges Increased Vigilance One Year After Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

This week, CISA assessed that the United States and European nations may experience disruptive and defacement attacks against websites in an attempt to sow chaos and societal discord on February 24, 2023, the anniversary of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. CISA urges organizations and individuals to increase their cyber vigilance in response to this potential threat.

In response to the heightened geopolitical tensions resulting from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, CISA maintains public cybersecurity resources, including Shields Up—a one-stop webpage that provides resources to increase organizational vigilance and keep the public informed about current cybersecurity threats.

FEMA Seeks Feedback on Achieving Equitable Recovery Guide

For a few more weeks, FEMA is seeking feedback on the draft "Achieving Equitable Recovery: A Post-Disaster Guide for Local Officials." The open comment period will end on March 15. Disaster recovery presents communities with the opportunity to rebuild in a thoughtful, equitable and resilient way. This guide supports local officials in:

- Their efforts to identify needs
- Establishing critical partnerships
- Leveraging new opportunities
- Conducting strategic public engagement
- Making a strong case for funding in an equitable manner

The guide is organized around eight goals focused on approaches to engaging and identifying the needs of all community members and ensuring a more accessible, inclusive and equitable recovery planning process. More information on the webinars and feedback request can be found [here](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

TTNews: [House Transportation Leaders Sam Graves, Scott Perry Target FEMA Aid](#)
HSToday: [Mapping Your Supply Chain](#)
House Homeland Security Committee: [Homeland Dems Request Briefing from DHS I&A, CISA on Domestic Violent Extremist Threats to Critical Infrastructure](#)
The Hill (opinion): [Our disastrous flood-control policies](#)
HSToday: [Critical Infrastructure Protection on the Agenda at NATO Meeting](#)

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