



May 21, 2021



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Money, Money, Money

Money is on the mind in Washington as we head into the summer months. [Politico reported](#) that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has diverted more than \$2 billion toward the cost of caring for the influx of unaccompanied immigrant children, \$850 million of which was originally allocated by Congress to rebuild the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), and another \$850 million is being pulled from money intended to expand coronavirus testing. The Biden Administration is not the first to shift money among programs to support the sheltering of unaccompanied migrant children and likely will not be the last (the Trump Administration did so in 2014). It is also to be expected that the Administration will receive significant flak for shifting the funds, similar to previous Administrations.

In anticipation of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees' upcoming summer of marking up the Department of Homeland Security's appropriation for FY22 and the compressed timeline under which the committees will consider the President's budget and member funding requests, hold hearings, and subsequently write legislation, NEMA and IAEM jointly wrote to the leadership of both committees to request Congress codify one of the two supplementals last year for EMPG. This would bring the total program request to \$455 million. Read the House and Senate [versions of the letter here](#).

The President's budget request is expected to be transmitted to Congress next week. Once NEMA staff has an opportunity to review the budget, members should keep an eye out for a comprehensive summary of emergency management priorities.

Hearings the Week of May 24, 2021

[Rethinking Resiliency: Budgeting for the Future of Forest Management](#)

Senate Committee on Appropriations
Wednesday, May 26, 10:00am ET

[Department of Homeland Security Resource Management and Operational Priorities](#)

House Committee on Appropriations
Features DHS Secretary Mayorkas
Wednesday, May 26, 10:00am ET

[A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Request for DHS](#)

Senate Committee on Appropriations
Wednesday, May 26, 2:00pm ET

More News from the Nation's Capital...

House Committee Leaders Ask FEMA for Information on Low Approval Rates for Disaster Survivor Program

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chair Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO), Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Chair Dina Titus (D-NV), and Ranking Member Daniel Webster (R-FL) sent a letter to FEMA requesting information on why approvals for assistance under the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) are only 13 percent so far this year. The letter recommends FEMA follow the GAO's 2020 report findings that FEMA should make several changes to its processes, forms, and staff trainings to make IHP assistance more accessible to eligible disaster survivors. The Members requested FEMA answer several questions to allow Congress to better understand how it can address these problems.

Read the letter's [full text here](#).

Bills Related to COVID-19 Fraud Prevention and Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Pass House

The *COVID-19 Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act of 2021* ([H.R. 3125](#)) passed the House this week. The legislation builds on the Defense Production Act's (DPA) purpose by allowing certain medical materials to qualify for purchase and increased production under the DPA and allowing the federal government to prioritize state, local, or tribal governments' orders. It also provides a framework for streamlined private sector engagement, directs the President to support the supply chain production of essential COVID-19 related materials, and requires reporting on purchases made and contracts entered into under DPA authorities. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA).

The *COVID-19 Fraud Prevention Act* ([H.R. 2959](#)) also passed the House this week. This legislation creates a joint Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Consumer and Investor Fraud Working Group to help protect consumers and investors from fraud as well as those affected by fraud during the pandemic. The Working Group will meet through the end of 2022 and provide a quarterly report to Congress outlining the resources made available to consumers, public enforcement actions, and related consumer complaints received by the CFPB and SEC regarding pandemic-related fraud. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Axne (D-IA).

Both bills have been sent to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs for further consideration.

FEMA NOFO for FY21 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grants Released

FEMA released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the FY21 Regional Catastrophic Grant Program, providing \$12 million (an increase over last year of \$2 million) to eligible states and local governments to close known preparedness capability gaps, encourage regional solutions, and build on existing regional preparedness efforts. Regional pandemic preparedness remains a program objective this year. The Food, Water, and Sheltering Community Lifeline and Health and Medical Lifeline are of particular interest.

Additional information on how to determine your state or locality's eligibility, the NOFO, and Frequently Asked Questions document are [all available here](#). Applications are due July 16, 2021 by 5:00pm ET.

2020 HSIN-Intel Annual Report Released

The DHS HSIN-Intel Program Management Office (PMO) released the 2020 HSIN-Intel Annual Report, which highlights FY20 Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) accomplishments and impacts to members, partners, and stakeholders.

Included in the report are:

- HSIN-Intel's new partnerships with federal and field-based information sharing entities;
- Enhanced functionalities and new tools supporting operational needs;
- Opportunities to collect feedback and engage with members about the platform; and
- Available resources.

The report is [available here](#) (requires login access). Contact the PMO at HSIN.intel.PMO@hq.dhs.gov with questions or feedback.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Roll Call: [Expect More Wildfires This Year. And Expect Lawmakers to Disagree About Them](#)

The Pew Charitable Trusts: [Diversifying Funding Sources for Nature-Based Projects, Data Tracking Can Help States Bolster Flood Resilience](#)

Route Fifty: [Atlantic Hurricane Season Starts June 1 - Here's What Forecasters are Watching Right Now](#)

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