

July 1, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: A Week of Opinions

NEMA released our summary of the House Appropriations Committee FY23 report to our membership this week, outlining the funding priorities of the Committee for DHS. As highlighted previously, NEMA legislative priorities that are incorporated in the language include an additional **\$15 million for EMPG**, **\$2 million for EMAC**, and a provision allowing for **management costs on Community Funded Projects (earmarks)**.

Congress was left in a tailspin on Tuesday as an unscheduled, last-minute hearing by the January 6th select committee was held – further adding fuel and information to an already contentious topic on the Hill. Between that and the plethora of news out of the Supreme Court, many are wondering what regular activity will look like in the policy committees between now and August Recess. NEMA continues closely monitoring a couple opportunities to move policy legislation while also hoping to see an Appropriations marker put down by the Senate in the coming month.

Hearings the Week of July 4, 2022

No hearings this week. District work period and Independence Day observed.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Release NOFO for Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program

On Monday, FEMA released the FY22 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program. This program, which has \$12 million to be provided in grants capped at \$1.5 million, supports the building of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation by providing resources to close known capability gaps in Housing and Logistics and Supply Chain Management, encouraging innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents, and building on existing regional efforts.

The NOFO can be found on the [RCPGP Website](#).

RAND Corporation Release HSOAC Report on Streamlining Emergency Management

Over the weekend, RAND Corporation's Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center (HSOAC) released a report which identified areas that FEMA can improve or streamline their processes, programs, doctrines, etc. (the report refers to these as "constructs"). Researchers reviewed 31 FEMA-selected constructs for opportunities to streamline, simplify, and strengthen the system, assessing how overlap, duplication, and fragmentation could affect implementation and outcomes. In this report, the researchers describe options for addressing the issues and impacts identified.

The full report can be found [here](#).

Secretary Raimondo Announces \$3B in Coastal and Climate Resilience Funding

On Wednesday, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo announced funding opportunities from NOAA's \$2.96 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to address the climate crisis and strengthen coastal resilience and infrastructure. Over the next five years, NOAA's targeted investments in the areas of habitat restoration, coastal resilience, and climate data and services will advance ongoing federal efforts toward building climate resilience.

This announcement highlights Notice of Funding Opportunities for the coming year focused on habitat restoration, coastal resilience, and marine debris as part of the Climate Ready Coasts initiative including:

- Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants (\$85 million)
- Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities (\$10 million)
- Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants (\$35 million)
- National Estuarine Research Reserve System Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants (\$12 million)
- Marine Debris Removal (\$56 million)
- Marine Debris Challenge Competition (\$16 million)
- Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions (\$3 million)

All NOFOs can be found in the NOAA [press release](#).

Columbia University Offering Free Disaster Housing and Development Training

The National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP), Columbia Climate School, at Columbia University is offering a range of trainings for emergency management professionals and community members under four Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant awards. These programs focus on post-disaster economic and housing recovery and incorporate broader concepts such as DRRA implementation, mitigation assistance (BRIC/PDM etc.), recovery assistance (CDBG-DR, MLR, Transitional Sheltering Assistance), Disaster Case Management program, and community lifelines. The free curricula, available across the U.S. in a combination of in-person, instructor-led, and web-based modalities, include several collaborative activities, planning tools, tool kits, and geographic information system resources that learners can incorporate into their emergency management strategies. Download the [FEMA Training Course Catalog \(PDF\)](#) or visit the [FEMA training portal](#) for details and course registration.

GAO Release Report Outlining Regulatory COVID-19 Flexibilities By FEMA

Last week, GAO released a report titled [COVID-19: Agencies Increased Use of Some Regulatory Flexibilities and Art Taking Steps to Assess Them](#). The report highlighted lessons learned from Ebola and Natural Disasters and how federal agencies implemented those lessons with COVID-19. Included in the agencies surveyed, FEMA said that they used their experience from prior disasters such as Hurricane Maria to implement a flexibility that simplified the application for FEMA's Public Assistance Program. The simplified process allowed applicants to avoid previously required in-person consultations with FEMA and significantly decreased the amount of time it took applicants to receive aid.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Governing: [What State Cybersecurity Task Forces Have Accomplished So Far](#)
Route Fifty: [Why Job Applicants Are Frustrated With the State and Local Government Hiring Process](#)

Forbes: [Nearly 1 In 4 People Worldwide At Risk From Flooding, Study Warns](#)

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