



July 29, 2022



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Congress Pulls Out the Checkbook

The headlines were all over the place this week as D.C. worked to get big ticket action items out the door before the August recess next week. Some of the biggest news among those headlines came Wednesday when Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced a \$670 billion deal - \$369 billion to go towards climate efforts and clean energy. While a check in the win column for the Biden Administration should it pass, this is significantly less than the original \$3 trillion proposed bill (remember that one?). There has not been any language for what is being called the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*, but in press releases and a provided [summary](#), the bill looks to raise revenue and lower prescription drug costs in order to fund energy, climate, and health care provisions as well as reduce the deficit.

The spending spree this week continued down the hall on Thursday when Senate Appropriations Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced the [release](#) of the 12 appropriation bills for FY 2023. NEMA staff is currently working on a summary of the Senate language compared to the House language and the President's request, which will be provided shortly.

Reducing inflation continues to be all-hands-on-deck in the Capitol. The Federal Reserve increased interest rates by another three quarters of a percent on Wednesday, continuing its fight to contain unprecedented inflation. Experts are saying this raise will likely slow the economy.

### Hearings the Week of August 1, 2022

[Building Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities: Perspectives from Oregon's State, Local, and Tribal Partners](#)

House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 10:00am PT

*\*This hearing is being held in Astoria, Oregon and will be livestreamed*

[Revisiting Gain of Function Research: What the Pandemic Taught Us and Where Do We Go From Here](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 10:00am

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

### NEMA Participates in US Chamber Resilience Policy Summit

On Wednesday, NEMA was represented by Vermeica Alsop, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). Alsop's panel discussed the future of resilience policy in the nation and how federal legislation can be authorized and improve our nation's resilience at all levels. Other speakers included Acting Deputy Administrator of Resilience for FEMA, Victoria Salinas, and Bailey Brown, Legislative Director for Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA). Acting Deputy Administrator Salinas discussed the BCA process and how FEMA is working to increase the equity within that process – a topic that NEMA has been involved in conversations on. Discussions also surrounded the issues of flooding and floodplain management, housing and increasing the resilience of the country's housing stock, and wildfires.

NEMA staff also attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference, with keynote remarks from FEMA Deputy Administrator Erik Hooks and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. This two-day event covered the full breadth of how the emergency management community can build resilience at all levels through deliberate and intentional partnerships and actions.

### FEMA Extends Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program Deadline

FEMA is extending their application period for the FY2022 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) by an additional week, moving the deadline to 5pm ET on Friday, August 5. The purpose of this program is to build regional capacity to manage catastrophic incidents by improving and expanding collaboration for catastrophic incident preparedness. FEMA is implementing three new strategic priorities in the FY 2022 RCPGP: equity, climate resilience, and readiness with an emphasis on the needs of disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations.

If this opportunity is of interest, applications can be found on the [here](#).

### FEMA Partners with AARP to Release Disaster Resilience Toolkit

Recently, FEMA partnered with the American Association of Retired People (AARP) and released resources to protect adult communities from natural disasters. With equity becoming a focal point in disaster response, resources are being provided to better assist with disadvantaged communities. Adults aged 65 and older are a growing demographic who are often disproportionately impacted by severe weather. The guides provide resources and encourage ideas and partnerships to better engage older Americans in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from these events.

View and download [the Guide to Expanding Mitigation: Making the Connection to Older Adults](#) and the Disaster Resilience Tool Kit on the [AARP website](#).

### White House Release Fact Sheets on Extreme Heat and Wildfire

This week, the Biden Administration released a fact sheet outlining 10 things that the Administration has done to help communities and states combat the current wave of extreme heat. Included in those 10 items were investing an additional \$2.3 billion in BRIC funding, something that was announced last week, and releasing guidance for the \$385 million Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program allowing states to expedite distributions of those funds. The fact sheet can be found [here](#).

Later in the week, the Administration released an additional fact sheet on the ongoing efforts of the President's Administration to address the growing wildfire threat. The [fact sheet](#) lays out a mix of policy initiatives and funding opportunities that are aimed at reducing frequency and minimizing the effects of wildfires.

### DHS Hold CIRC Inaugural Meeting

Late last week, DHS Secretary Mayorkas convened the Cyber Incident Reporting Council (CIRC) – a new Council composed of federal agencies with a Congressional mandate to coordinate, deconflict, and harmonize existing and future federal cyber incident reporting requirements – for its inaugural meeting.

According to the agency, the CIRC will meaningfully improve cybersecurity, reduce burden on industry by advancing common standards for incident reporting, and inform a report from the Secretary, due to Congress within 180 days of the first Council meeting, that will present recommendations for how the federal government can achieve harmonization. During the meeting, Secretary Mayorkas highlighted the importance of assessing reporting requirements and seeking opportunities for related harmonization.

### FEMA Kicks-Off Hazard Mitigation Assistance Summer Engagement Series

On August 4, FEMA will kick-off its 2022 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Summer Engagement Series. The 10-part series features experts and special guests who will provide information and insights on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs. Three webinars will be presented to provide an overview of the fiscal year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity for BRIC and FMA.

The webinars are designed for regional leaders and key stakeholders in states, local communities, tribes and territories and other interested individuals to learn more about the grant programs and grant application strategies. To register, visit [Hazard Mitigation Assistance 2022 Summer Engagement Series](#) and find the webinar best suited for your jurisdiction.

*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*

HSToday: [NOAA Tool Now Brings Disaster Risk, Vulnerability Down to Community Level](#)

Route Fifty: [Biden Administration Unveils Website to Help Combat Extreme Heat Conditions](#)

Governing: [5 Ways to Increase Election Security Ahead of the Midterms](#)

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