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April 4, 2025



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Working Through the Uncertainty

Uncertainty continues to be the dominant theme in Washington, and we've been devoting a significant amount of our time to parsing through rumors and advocating for the priorities of our members. The FEMA Review Council is still largely a mystery, with no official statements yet released identifying who will make up the Council. It's also still unclear how significant a role the Council will actually play in determining the future of FEMA. The administration does not appear to be waiting for the Council to meet before making significant changes at the agency, and Congress—particularly the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—have been vocal about wanting to move forward FEMA reforms before the Council convenes and issues their recommendations. We continue to urge for a pause in additional significant changes at the agency until the Review Council has completed their work.

Looking at the state of the FY26 appropriations process, timelines appear to be shifting to the right. While the administration's budget proposal is typically due in early February, it often arrives late, and this year appears to be no different. While initial reports indicated it would be delivered in April, Congressional appropriators now do not expect the President's budget proposal until May. This will delay House Republicans' ability to write their government-funding bills for FY26, which seems to be the new norm in Congress. The President's budget request will be what's known as a "skinny budget," which will provide some insight in the President's priorities but will not include full details. Unfortunately, it's very likely that it will not include many of the details that we're most interested in knowing in the emergency management community.

Without any significant work being done on FY26 appropriations, Congress' big focus this week is on reconciliation. Earlier this year, the House and Senate passed different budget plans, and now they need to agree on one unified budget to move forward with the reconciliation process. The House plan included extending tax cuts and cutting at least \$1.5 trillion in spending. The Senate's budget plan was more focused on energy and immigration policies, with the idea of creating a second reconciliation package later this year that would include extending tax cuts. We're watching this closely and will provide an update once the details come into clearer focus.

[Upcoming Congressional Hearings...](#)

[Decades of Dysfunction: Restoring Accountability at HUD](#)
House Committee on Financial Affairs | Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Tuesday, April 8; 10:00 AM (ET)

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HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled, "Cybersecurity is Local, Too: Assessing the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program." The witnesses included Robert Huber (Chief Security Officer, Tenable, Inc.), Alan Fuller (Chief Information Officer, State of Utah), Kevin Kramer (First Vice President, National League of Cities; Councilman, Louisville, KY), and Mark Raymond (Chief Information Officer, State of Connecticut). The intent of the hearing was to assess the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), which is administered by CISA and FEMA, and to explore opportunities for Congress to ensure the preparedness and resiliency of state and local governments against cyberattacks.

The SLCGP is scheduled to expire in September, at which point the grant program will stop receiving federal funding unless reauthorized by Congress. In the hearing, available to watch [here](#), the witnesses agreed that the SLCGP plays a crucial role in enhancing the cybersecurity capabilities of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. By providing \$1 billion over four years, the program helps these entities tackle the growing complexity of cyber threats, especially given their limited budgets. The witnesses explained that the SLCGP enables the implementation of essential protections, such as risk assessments, workforce training, and governance planning, which safeguard critical infrastructure. Additionally, it promotes collaboration between state and local officials through the creation of Cybersecurity Planning Committees and the development of comprehensive Cybersecurity Plans. These efforts foster stronger relationships, improve communication, and ensure that resources are used efficiently to address cybersecurity risks across jurisdictions.

The witnesses also recognize that while the SLCGP has successfully laid a solid foundation for improving cybersecurity, reforms are needed to enhance its effectiveness. Despite potential areas for improvement, however, the witnesses argued that the reauthorization of SLCGP is critical to ensure that these governments have the resources and infrastructure necessary to protect against evolving cyber risks. NEMA has previously joined with a coalition of partners calling on Congress to reauthorize the SLCGP.

[Other News from DC and Around the Country...](#)

[NPR: States Say Trump's Continued Freeze on Much-Needed FEMA Aid Violates a Judge's Order](#)

[CT Mirror: FEMA Funding for 'Sanctuary' Areas Under Review, CT Officials Warn](#)

[E&E News: Texas Disaster Chief Withdraws from FEMA Consideration](#)

[GovTech: Honolulu Launches New Real-Time Emergency Alert System](#)

[AZ Central: Abolish FEMA? How Arizona Needs to Adjust if Trump Eliminates Disaster Agency](#)

[Homeland Security News Wire: If FEMA Didn't Exist, Could States Handle the Disaster Response on Their Own?](#)

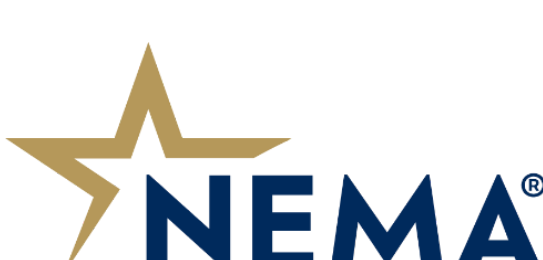
[HS Today: Emergency Management Leaders Request FEMA Reform, Not Elimination](#)

[Politico: FEMA Blocks \\$10B in Disaster Aid Over Immigration Concerns](#)

[HS Today: President Trump Extends National Emergency With Respect to Significant Cyber Threats for Another Year](#)

[Homeland Security News Wire: US Earthquake Safety Relies on Federal Employees' Expertise](#)

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