

# Emergency Management Performance Grants

*Providing Returns on a Nation's Investment*

2019 Edition

Joint Report by the:  
National Emergency Management Association  
and the  
U.S. Council of International Association of Emergency Managers





Since 2011, the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) provide this joint report detailing the return on investment realized by the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program.

Grantees utilize these funds in building all-hazards emergency management capacity at the state, local, and tribal levels of government. Through this program, state and local governments:

- Build the nationwide capability to mitigate against, respond to, and recover from any potential hazard;
- Managing thousands of events without requiring a major or emergency declarations;
- Empowering citizens across the country to ensure their own personal preparedness;
- Maintaining critical technologies to support communications and public alerts; and
- Coordinate across state and local jurisdictional boundaries to support mutual aid agreements.

States estimate it would require an additional \$116 million to bring all eligible jurisdictions up to the 50 percent reimbursement level. This is why for FY20, IAEM and NEMA will renew our call for Congress to provide a five percent increase bringing the program total to \$368 million.

We remain thankful for the commitment within Congress to maintain this worthwhile program, and will continue as associations to reflect on the appropriated funds, provide transparency in how these funds are allocated, and remain good stewards of these taxpayer's dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BRAD RICHY".

Brad Richy  
President, NEMA  
Director, Idaho Office Emergency Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Shaub".

Marty Shaub, CEM  
President, IAEM-USA  
Managing Director, Environmental Health and Safety, University of Utah

## Overview

The current iteration of this report represents funding decisions made throughout Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) and reflects survey responses from 46 states, two territories, and 1,042 local emergency management agencies across the country.

While there was a strong response rate to this survey, the full participation by local and tribal jurisdictions far exceeds what is practical to represent in this report. Also, while the number of tasks accomplished by local and tribal jurisdictions demonstrated are impressive on their face, consideration should be given to the fact that 27 percent of the responding jurisdictions accomplish this work with less than a full-time emergency manager, and 34 percent of the tasks were carried out in jurisdictions with populations of less than 25,000.

## Reducing Disaster Costs to the Federal Government

This past year will be remembered as one of the most unique disaster cycles in history. Hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, severe winter weather, earthquakes, and even volcanic lava flows impacted every corner of the country. EMPG provides the necessary support to build and sustain capabilities necessary to protect citizens and avoid the escalation of an event. In FY18:

- 66 disasters required a major or emergency declaration.
- Beyond that, 15,486 events required state assets, but did not reach the level of a major declaration; and,
- Local assets supported an additional 7,845 local and tribal events.

*Capabilities afforded through EMPG allow these 23,331 events to be managed without additional federal expenditures!*

Downpours of August 1 soaked **Manor Township, Pennsylvania**. The resulting rockslide knocked over high-tension power lines for the adjoining Amtrak rail line and created a rock mound four-stories high. Using capabilities built by EMPG, local emergency managers remained on-site for two weeks coordinating USAR activities and integrating state and local agencies — all without a disaster declaration.



According to NEMA's 2018 Biennial Report, it would require an additional \$116 million in EMPG funds to bring all eligible jurisdictions up to the 50 percent reimbursement level.

PLANNING	TRAINING	EXERCISES
<p><b>Speed Recovery</b>  <b>Reduce Administrative Costs</b>  <b>Prepare for Mitigation</b></p>	<p><b>Ensure Effective Use of Systems</b>  <b>Translate Planning into Action</b>  <b>Identify Gaps in Planning</b></p>	<p><b>Assess Planning &amp; Training</b>  <b>Confirm Assumptions</b>  <b>Provide Real-Life Scenarios</b></p>
<p>In total, 4,409 state and 3,828 local plans were developed, maintained, or updated using EMPG funds.</p> <p>These plans include overarching topics such as response, recovery, and mitigation. More specific planning efforts included pandemic influenza, New Madrid earthquake, evacuations, energy assurance, and a play-book for partner agencies.</p>	<p>EMPG supported 3,942 local and tribal, and 6,206 state classes addressing the various phases of emergency management. In total, 99,088 state and 49,497 personnel received training.</p> <p>Classes cover the full-range of emergency management issues and participants include public officials, emergency response personnel, and even the general public in some cases.</p>	<p>In FY18, EMPG supported 2,408 state-level exercises—an increase of 35 percent over FY17. Another 2,915 local and tribal events also occurred.</p> <p>Types of exercises include workshops, drills, and functional full-scale exercises. In total, these benefited 307,496 state and 107,766 local participants.</p>

### Empowering the Public through Preparedness

A major responsibility for emergency managers is supporting public preparedness. With the assistance of EMPG, local and tribal officials supported 4,243 preparedness outreach campaigns. Concurrently, state officials conducted 2,409 statewide citizen and community preparedness outreach campaigns.

*In total, preparedness outreach campaigns touched 103,358,979 citizens across the county!*

For over three hours in April, heavy rains inundated **Clarke County, Alabama** with measurements approaching 10 inches. The Clarke County Emergency Management Agency utilized capabilities, mutual aid, and an operations center supported through EMPG in managing the \$1.2 million disaster without a Federal disaster declaration.

### Communications & Warning Systems

The landscape of communicating with other response officials or the general public is evolving with the speed of technology today. In order to remain at the forefront of disaster management, EMPG allowed state and local emergency managers to support:

- 1,933 local and 525 state *emergency response systems or services* including WebEOC platforms, shelter management capabilities, and donation management software;
- 358 statewide and 697 local *community warning systems*, and;
- 131 state *emergency operations centers*.

### Working Together Through Mutual Aid

Mutual aid agreements between jurisdictions minimizes the need for immediate federal support and thereby reduces costs to the federal government. These agreements remain critical to mounting an effective response in the wake of a disaster and mobilizing tested emergency management capabilities across city, county, tribal, and state lines. In FY18, EMPG supported 3,621 local and tribal and 3,056 statewide mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, non-profit agencies, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADS), and the private sector.

## Conclusion

This report outlines how EMPG remains a critical driver of progress and success made across the country in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards. Major takeaways include:

- The federal investment in EMPG is \$350 million — ***a little more than \$1 per citizen*** — and with the match requirement and additional state and local investment, the return on investment exceeds \$700 million and is felt in every state and community.
- An estimated \$116 million is required to bring all eligible jurisdictions up to the 50 percent reimbursement level.
- In the FY20 Appropriations, Congress should ***include a five percent increase*** to bring the total for EMPG to \$368 million to begin closing the funding gap.
- Last year, ***23,331 events were managed by local, tribal, and state governments without federal assistance.***

This report represents a mere glimpse into how EMPG impacts the disaster preparedness and response landscape but there is so much more happening across the country than cannot be expressed on paper. EMPG stands as a beacon of Congressional support and both NEMA and IAEM-USA remain appreciative of the support. We hope such support continues as emergency managers put these funds to good use and work tirelessly to demonstrate the return on the nation's investment.



### ABOUT NEMA:

Established in 1974, NEMA represents the emergency management directors of the 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. These professionals are responsible to their governors for all-hazards emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery from all emergencies, disasters, and threats to the homeland. NEMA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, and an affiliate of the Council of State Governments.

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### ABOUT IAEM-USA:

IAEM-USA is the nation's largest association of emergency management professionals, with more than 5,000 members, including emergency managers at the state and local government levels, tribal nations, the military, colleges and universities, private business and the nonprofit sector. Most of the members are city and county emergency managers who perform the crucial function of coordinating and integrating the efforts at the local level to prepare for, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all types of disasters, including terrorist attacks. The membership includes emergency managers from large urban areas as well as rural areas. IAEM is a non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia.

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