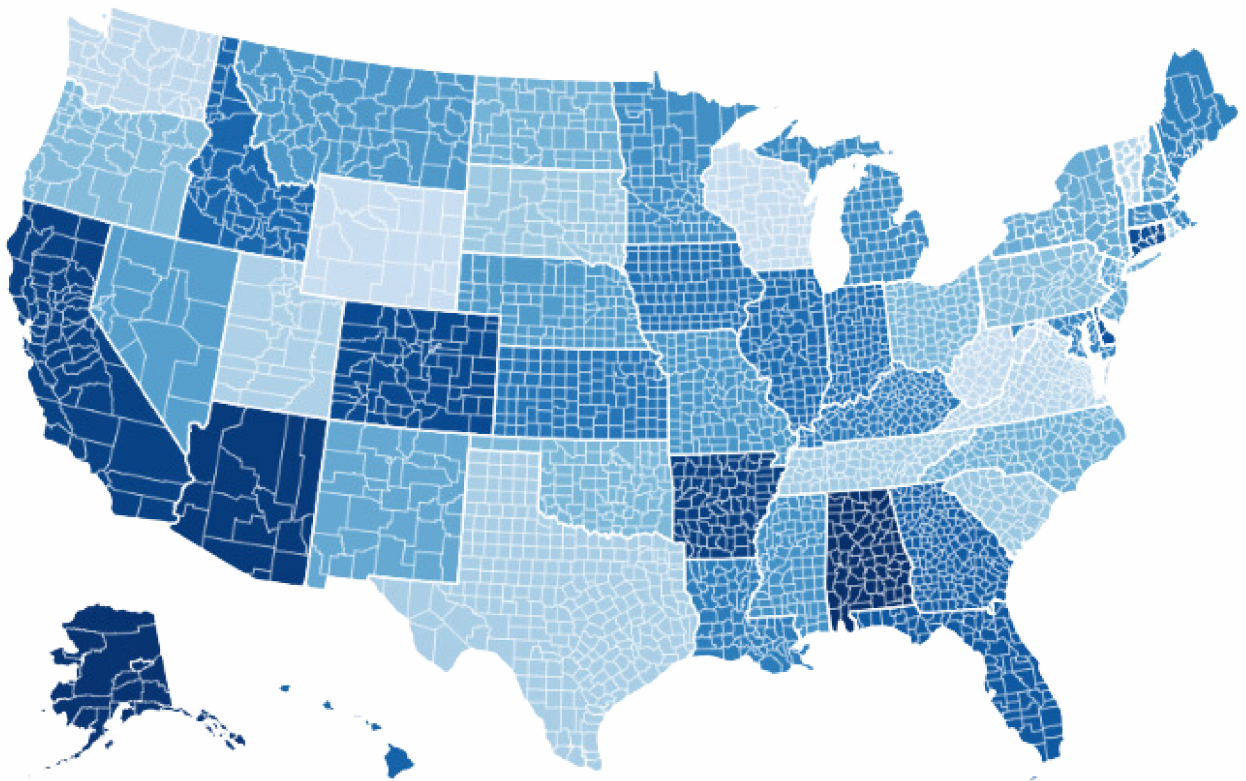


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS

Evaluating A Nation's Return On Investment



2024 Edition

Joint Report Presented By





Annually, the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) offer this joint report detailing the return on investment of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. Over the past year, states and communities across the country have been burdened with costly emergencies and a historical number of “billion-dollar” disaster events. The funds provided by the EMPG program have been essential to local and state governments to strengthen their capabilities, effectively respond to emergencies, and support their communities through every step of the recovery cycle.

This year’s report demonstrates how the EMPG program has helped to maintain and improve emergency management across the country. Our country’s emergency management capabilities and homeland security are threatened by many issues, such as the Coronavirus response and recovery, cyber-attacks, the migrant crisis, the opioid epidemic, and homelessness. EMPG grant funding requires dollar-for-dollar matching, meaning that to receive more grant money, recipients have to spend more money. While this transaction poses challenges, state and local governments continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to this partnership with the federal government to build an all-hazards emergency management capacity. Congress has historically met the needs of these agencies. In FY20, EMPG received a \$5 million increase: a total of \$355 million annually. Three COVID-19 supplemental appropriations allocated \$250 million to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. As hazards continue to diversify, increase in cost, and become more frequent, NEMA and IAEM call upon Congress to codify one of the supplemental amounts of \$100 million for an annual appropriation of \$455 million.

EMPG is a beacon of Congress’ dedication to building a ready nation and a more resilient tomorrow. We remain thankful for Congress’ commitment to maintain the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. As associations dedicated to emergency management, we commit to providing transparency in how these funds are allocated and remain good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars.

Sincerely,

Russell Strickland
President, NEMA
Secretary, Maryland Department of Emergency
Management

Justin Kates
President, IAEM-USA
Senior Business Continuity Advisor
Wawa, Inc.

REDUCING DISASTER COSTS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The question is never if a disaster will happen, it is always when a disaster will happen. Since 2019, there have been 18 or more “billion-dollar” disaster events that have impacted the United States each year. FY24 saw many emergency events that did not reach the “billion-dollar” threshold but caused devastation at the local and state levels. For these events, EMPG funding supported the capabilities necessary to mitigate threats to residents and avoid escalation of such events. This report was generated from the survey responses from 48 states and territories and over 420 local emergency management agencies regarding FY23 EMPG spending. In FY23:

60 events required a federal major or emergency declaration

23,910 events required state or territorial assets but did not reach the level of a major declaration

3,319 additional events used EMPG-funded assets in combination with local assets without any additional state or federal support

States, localities, and territories managed **at least 27,229 events without additional federal expenditure** last year.

ADDRESSING STATE AND LOCAL NEEDS

The flexibility of the EMPG funding allows state, local, and territorial governments to utilize assistance in areas where they have identified their greatest needs, vulnerabilities, and growth opportunities. In FY23, states highlighted priorities such as: enhancing state emergency communication capabilities; investing in training and retention programs to recruit and maintain staff; developing emergency and hazard mitigation plans; increasing information-sharing capabilities with local and federal partners; improving emergency operation centers and other technology needs; and developing resources for cyber capabilities.

In FY23, EMPG helped local and state emergency managers:

“facilitate community-based preparedness activities to help individual, families, and community organizations developing lifesaving hazard awareness and disaster skills”

“run exercises in shelter operation decision-making and radiological emergency preparedness”

“grow staffing to the point where we can catch up on plans that were over 12 years old, start offering training for first responders that had not happened in over five years, and start regionalizing support with neighboring counties”

“build Mass Care capability and begin developing MOUs with emergency shelter locations owned by the school district, a municipality, and a private company”

“increase the number of contacts in our CodeRED system by 32%”

“increase the number of Professional Emergency Manager training courses offered in rural areas of the state”

“offer countywide town hall-style outreach events targeted to hurricane season preparedness”

“hire a city cyber planner”

PLANNING, TRAINING, AND EXERCISES



PLANNING

SPEEDS RECOVERY
AND REDUCES
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

At least **2,729** state and **2,372** local plans were developed, maintained, or updated using EMPG funds. These plans addressed all phases of emergency management as well as mitigation and resilience-building.

EMPG funds also supported specific plans for critical infrastructure continuity of operations, Strategic National Stockpile usage, and evacuation protocols.



TRAINING

TRANSLATES
PLANNING INTO
ACTION

In FY23 EMPG supported more than **1,867** local and **5,778** state-level training courses in emergency management and homeland security.

At least **140,680** personnel across the country received and completed these courses, including public officials, first responders, infrastructure operators, educators, and various stakeholder groups.



EXERCISES

ASSESSES PLANNING
AND TRAINING IN
REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

EMPG supported more than **1,007** local and **1,976** state-level exercises. Exercises include workshops, drills, simulations, and functional full-scale exercises involving entire response and recovery forces and intragovernmental partnerships.

Many stakeholder groups also participate in these exercises, strengthening partnerships within jurisdictions well before disaster strikes.

EMPG-SUPPORTED SUCCESS

Between June 2022 and June 2023, the **North Dakota Department of Emergency Services** designed, conducted, and analyzed a series of exercises exploring the consequences of a nation-state cyberattack on the electrical power grid called “Operation Staple Puller.” The department adopted a “whole-of-community” approach involving state agencies, local jurisdictions, private industry, and the state National Guard - with many participants later reporting they had never cooperated so closely. As a result of these exercises, North Dakota is reviewing and updating emergency plans throughout the entire state government.



Image courtesy of North Dakota National Guard

Supporting public preparedness is critical to a successful emergency response. Local and state-level emergency managers provide their jurisdiction with resources, trainings, and educational tools to residents to prepare for disasters. When disasters do occur, local and state-level emergency managers must be the first to provide the public with accurate and timely information.

In FY23, EMPG funding supported at least **2,322** statewide preparedness outreach campaigns and **7,216** local campaigns. These campaigns reached at least **108,160,446** people at least once throughout the country.

COMMUNICATIONS & WARNING SYSTEMS

As technology is rapidly evolving, emergency managers and first responders must invest in technologies that advance not only their responses to emergency events but also their communications with the public. These investments can exceed the budgets of many local and even state-level agencies. EMPG supports investments in new technologies for emergency responders. But, more commonly, EMPG allows emergency managers to maintain and improve existing systems, as it is a more cost-effective use of the tax dollars of the communities they serve. In FY23, EMPG supported approximately:

- 516** local and state emergency response systems or services, including WebEOC platforms, shelter management capabilities, and donation management software
- 485** state and local community warning systems
- 355** redundant communications systems
- 298** local and **118** state emergency operations centers

EMPG-SUPPORTED SUCCESS



Image courtesy of Clinton County Emergency Management

EMPG has enabled the **Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management** to provide numerous communications and planning systems free of charge to all 99 counties in the state, including WebEOC platforms, damage assessment tools, GIS programs and data for emergency plan development, and a statewide repository of emergency plans - freeing up local resources for other critical needs.



*Image courtesy of California Governor's Office of
Emergency Services*

In FY23, EMPG supported at least **1,813** local and **2,046** state-level mutual aid agreements, memorandums of understanding, and memorandums of agreement with neighboring jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs), and private sector organizations. As localities and states manage everyday operations within their jurisdictions and know their communities best, mutual aid allows emergency managers to efficiently respond to emergencies. This allows local and statewide organizations to be self-sufficient, and not dependent upon state or federal assistance.

EMPG-SUPPORTED SUCCESS

Throughout **North Carolina**, EMPG supported the formation of All-Hazard Incident Management Teams that train and certify local and state agency personnel to serve their own jurisdictions and deploy to other jurisdictions via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). These teams deploy to other communities throughout the state and to other states upon request. North Carolina has also created teams with specialized training for specific environments and hazard types, including several Urban Search and Rescue teams and Helo Aquatic Rescue Teams, whose technicians work with personnel and assets from the North Carolina National Guard and State Highway Patrol.



Image courtesy of David Goldman, Associated Press/USA Today

CONCLUSION

With a dollar-for-dollar minimum match of funds channeled directly to local and state-level emergency management entities to address their evolving response and recovery challenges, the EMPG program supports consistent and cost-effective mitigation of threats to the homeland. In FY23, EMPG funding proved more essential than ever to mitigate costs and risks at the federal level by empowering local and state emergency managers to manage the threats in their jurisdictions. This program allowed emergency managers to address the greatest challenges their communities uniquely face.

- At just over \$1 per resident nationwide, including the match requirement and additional state and local investment, **the return on investment by EMPG exceeds \$700 million**. When accounting for investments exceeding a 1:1 match, this return approximates \$1 billion every year.
- In FY23, **at least 27,229 events** were managed by local, state, and territorial governments without additional federal assistance. This figure far surpasses total federal disaster declarations year after year.

The EMPG funding structure reflects that response and recovery efforts are the most effective when local and state leaders are reinforced. EMPG funding significantly decreases the number of events that have an escalated response, to ensure resources for those requiring national-level responses. Additionally, these funds allow for federal expenditures and mitigate impacts on vulnerable populations. Year after year, the investments provided by the EMPG program help to build and maintain trusting relationships with stakeholders and the public.

To sustain the investments made through FY23 and FY24, NEMA and IAEM call on Congress to **increase the EMPG baseline levels to \$455 million** — an increase of \$100 million — in FY25. The support of Congress, to date, for this program is a hallmark of the dedication to the communities you serve. We are appreciative of Congress' legacy of support. Furthermore, NEMA and IAEM-USA remain committed to helping our nation's emergency managers in their tireless efforts to serve and protect their communities.

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:

IAEM-USA is the nation's largest association of emergency management professionals, with over 5,500 members, including emergency managers at the state and local government levels, tribal nations, the military, colleges and universities, private businesses, and the nonprofit sector. Most members are city and county emergency managers who coordinate and integrate local efforts 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 both large urban and rural areas. IAEM is a non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia.

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