



April 19, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

On behalf of the state and local emergency managers across the country, we ask you to consider the following programs and priorities within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the Department of Homeland Security as you develop the 302(b) allocations for FY23.

The COVID-19 pandemic in addition to ongoing wildfires, tornados, hurricanes, and drought, complicated the emergency management landscape over the past year. We learned of programmatic and systemic shortcomings which will be the focus of after-action assessments for years to come. Despite these challenges, state and local emergency managers continued building a robust system to build resilience, respond, and recover from these evolving challenges. In many cases, this effort occurred without a federal disaster declaration from the federal government. In FY21, 83 disasters required a major or emergency declaration. Beyond that, state, local, and territorial government managed 21,482 events without additional federal assistance.

FEMA is not a first responder during disasters, so without a thriving state and local emergency management system, many of these 21,482 events would likely have required costly federal support. Through programs and partnerships with the federal government, we build strong capacity at the state and local levels; help achieve FEMA's stated goal ensuring disasters are "locally executed, state managed, and federally supported;" and help drive-down the costs of disasters nationwide.

1. **Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG).** EMPG is integral to building state and local capacity thereby lessening the burden on FEMA. With a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement at the local and state levels, this program represents one of the best values in federal spending. These funds go toward reducing disaster costs to the federal government; continuing to battle the COVID-19 pandemic; managing public awareness campaigns to increase preparedness; conduct planning, training, and exercises; help one another through mutual aid; and support communications and warning systems. EMPG continues as a critical driver of progress and success made across the country in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards.

**Request:** *Codify one of the supplemental amounts provided in FY21 and FY22 and fund EMPG at \$455 million.* Given the matching requirement, this \$100 million increase over FY22 would cause an increase of at least \$200 million in emergency management spending through this federal, state, and local partnership.

2. **Training and Education.** The President's Budget Request for FY23 represents a strong funding request for Education, Training, and Exercises within FEMA Federal Assistance. This proposal demonstrates support in

building continuity and maintaining professionalism within the emergency management discipline. Programs such as the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (\$18 million, enacted) creates baseline leadership in the homeland security industry while developing the leaders of the future, and with homeland security in a constantly evolving threat dynamic, such programs should be held an example for others.

Furthermore, the emergency management community is encouraged by the proposal to enhance the Emergency Management Instituted (EMI) through EMI Revitalization. This proposal will modernize EMI's virtual e-campus technologies, develop satellite campuses in partnership with other colleges and federal entities, revise EMI's curricula and develop certificate programs to fill knowledge caps, and allow EMI to sponsor executive crisis leadership development programs for our nation's most senior government, private sector, and non-profit leaders. As you consider this proposal, we also encourage you to explore ways in which it could even be further expanded through additional, planned investments with a multi-year strategy.

**Request:** *Fund CHDS at the FY22 enacted level of \$18 million and honor the request of at least \$30.7 million to begin the EMI Revitalization effort, an \$8 million increase over FY22 enacted.*

- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).** Mutual aid agreements, such as EMAC, 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. Since 2016, the EMAC system coordinated over 200 events and deployed over 40,000 state, local, and National Guard personnel for disaster response and recovery operations while also supporting over 800 exercise and training events.

**Request:** *Fund EMAC at \$3 million to allow for modernization, integration, and expansion of the Compact and national mutual aid. This would be a \$1 million increase over FY22 enacted and the President's request.*

Emergency managers across the country stand ready to achieve national calls to reduce the costs of disasters, minimize the impact to our communities, and lessen the likelihood of future events. To accomplish these goals, however, the federal government must stand with us as a willing partner. By supporting these initiatives, you can demonstrate Congress' role in this partnership and ensure a reaffirmation across all levels of government to our shared commitment to national preparedness.

Sincerely,



Erica Bornemann, MPA  
President, NEMA



Mark Sloan  
President, BCEM



Carolyn J. Harshman, MPA, CEM  
President, IAEM-USA