

Contact: Dawn Shiley  
IAEM Communications Manager  
703-538-3542

For Immediate Release



## Statement from IAEM Regarding the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Proposal

**April 6, 2026 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is deeply alarmed by the President's FY 2027 budget proposal, which includes a \$1.3 billion reduction to FEMA preparedness grants. These cuts would effectively dismantle core programs such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program.

These programs form the backbone of our nation's emergency management system, supporting state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies in building the capabilities needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters of all kinds. The proposed reductions would significantly weaken national readiness at a time when communities are facing more frequent, complex, and costly threats.

Preparedness is not optional. It is the foundation of effective disaster response. Without sustained federal investment in planning, training, exercises, and mitigation, the burden shifts to states and local jurisdictions that often lack the resources to fill the gap. This approach risks creating a reactive system that spends more after disasters occur, rather than reducing impacts beforehand.

IAEM urges Congress to reject these proposed reductions and fully fund FEMA's preparedness grant programs. A strong, resilient nation depends on a robust federal-state-local partnership. That partnership must be strengthened, not diminished.

*IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 6,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters, including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter, and more.*

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