



February 28, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

As you consider supplemental funding for the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), we respectfully request the inclusion of \$100 million for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

While the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains primary responsibility for this event at the federal level, state and local emergency managers are already conducting pivotal functions to protect the American people. Prior to the Public Health apparatus achieving full operating status, emergency managers are already coordinating activities across state and local agencies. Additional funds could allow state and local governments to:

- Augment ongoing disaster preparations, responses, and recoveries for other events;
- Activate Emergency Operations Centers for monitoring, interagency coordination, and response activities;
- Increase coordination with Public Health and K-12 partners;
- Conduct more inter-agency training and exercise opportunities across governments, and;
- Enhance strategic communications and public outreach to educate the general public on mitigation and preparedness strategies.

This all-encompassing situation is a perfect example of the reach of a program like EMPG which builds the capacity for states and locals to coordinate an issue such as COVID-19. The flexibility of the program is critical in the absence of any direct federal assistance, and the dollar-for-dollar match highlights the partnership across all levels of government. This request is not meant to detract from additional Public Health needs but is rather an opportunity for you to help state and local governments weather the storm at the operational level until such time as additional resources and capabilities can be provided and coordinated.

On behalf of the state and local emergency managers across the country, the memberships of the National Emergency Management Association, International Association of Emergency Managers, National Association of Counties, and Big City Emergency Managers thank you for your continued support and dedication to the safety and security of the nation.

Sincerely,

Sima Merick  
NEMA President

Matthew Chase  
NACo Executive Director

Teri Smith  
IAEM-USA President

Mark Sloan  
BCEM Board Chair

cc: The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland Security