



Emergency Management Performance Grants

Providing Returns on a Nation's Investment

2018 Edition

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



For the seventh year, the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) are proud to offer this joint report detailing the return on investment realized by the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. This program is the conduit through which state and local governments collaborate with the federal government to build a baseline capability throughout the emergency management system.

The purpose of this grant and the emergency management system it supports is codified through the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.). Grantees utilize these funds in building all-hazards emergency management capacity at the state, local, and tribal levels of government.

As seen again this year, recipients of this grant continue demonstrating a strong commitment; for every dollar of federal funds invested, at least that much is matched by both grantees and sub-grantees. EMPG stands as the beacon of Congressional commitment to ensure communities and states are more ready to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from disasters. EMPG must continue being strengthened and maintained through shared investments, and this report represents the commitment by IAEM and NEMA membership to demonstrate the return on this national investment.

We remain thankful for the commitment within Congress to maintain this worthwhile program, and pledge continued demonstration of the impact of indiscriminate cuts proposed by the Administration. We will continue as associations to reflect on the appropriated funds, provide transparency in how these funds are allocated, and remain good stewards of these precious taxpayer's dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Sprayberry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Michael A. Sprayberry
President, National Emergency Management Association
Director, North Carolina Emergency Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Crossley, CEM". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Nick Crossley, CEM
President, U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers
Director, Hamilton County, Ohio, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Overview

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program is essential for the building and sustainment of critical capabilities for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation across the country. The return on investment (ROI) is validated through the actions of thousands of emergency managers at the local and state levels and the impact of their activities on individuals, businesses, and communities.

The current iteration of this report represents funding decisions made throughout Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) and reflects survey responses from 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and 1,077 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 numbers 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.



On October 1, 2017, the mass shooting event in Las Vegas, Nevada required a resiliency and recovery framework to be developed and implemented. This effort utilized the collective strengths of their small emergency management staff and necessitated assistance from personnel from throughout Clark County and other agencies across the jurisdiction. Clark County's approach to Resiliency and Recovery from this event has already garnered national attention and will prove a model for future events.

Demonstrated Value

EMPG provides the support necessary to sustain capabilities vital to the safety and security of our nation at a value to the American taxpayers. Since its inception, EMPG has required a dollar-for-dollar match from grantees and sub-grantees for all funds appropriated by Congress. Therefore, in each grant cycle, local, tribal, and state governments demonstrate their continued commitment to preparedness by sharing in the investment in this program. In fact, *most recipients exceed the required match*. Even in these difficult economic times, members of NEMA and IAEM continue embracing the match requirement on all EMPG funds and see it as the bedrock of their commitment to national preparedness. This program is truly a partnership across all levels of government.

Reducing Disaster Costs to the Federal Government

Fiscal year 2017 represented a range of hazards which required an unprecedented amount of emergency management professionalism and preparedness:

- 137 disasters required a major or emergency declaration.
- Beyond that, 22,552 events required state assets, but did not reach the level of a major declaration; and,
- Local assets supported an additional 12,557 local and tribal events.

Without a thriving emergency management system at the state, local, and tribal levels, many of these **35,109 events** would have likely exceeded state and local capabilities, thus requiring costly federal support.

Capabilities afforded through EMPG allow these events to be managed without additional federal expenditures!

The **State of North Carolina** endeavored to make a 52-acre tract of land more disaster-resilient after the historic community of Princeville was flooded for the second time in less than 20 years. The state created a 5-day community design workshop for land use planners, engineers, architects, and landscape architects to develop three scenarios for the land. The new parcel will include more disaster-resilient housing, businesses, public facilities, and community open space.

Practice Makes Perfect: Supporting Planning, Training & Exercises

Planning helps speed recovery, reduces administrative costs, and is often a prerequisite for specific recovery or mitigation grant dollars which reduces future impacts of disasters. In total, 2,099 state and 94,822 local plans were developed, maintained, or updated using EMPG funds. These efforts included plans for emergency operations, continuity of government or operations, evacuations, citizens with functional needs, and supporting information to existing plans.

Exercises allow emergency managers to assess how well the emergency management system will perform when disaster strikes. In FY17, EMPG supported 1,559 statewide and 3,732 local and tribal workshops, drills, and functional full-scale exercises, which benefited 236,726 state and 2,632,881 local participants.

Training ensures the effective use of systems and plans by highly qualified personnel. Skilled emergency management professionals must translate planning and support structures into action. EMPG supported 47,862 local and tribal, and 6,355 state classes addressing the various phases of emergency management. These classes cover issues such as mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and include training for public officials, emergency response and management personnel, and citizens. In total, 119,965 state and 2,632,881 personnel received training.



After a flash flood event in July 2017, the part-time emergency management staff of **Brown County, Ohio** assisted multiple jurisdictions with Damage Assessments following storms and coordinated resources to assist with recovery. Also, utilizing the State Disaster Relief Program, the state and county worked together in providing *non-federal assistance* to multiple communities.

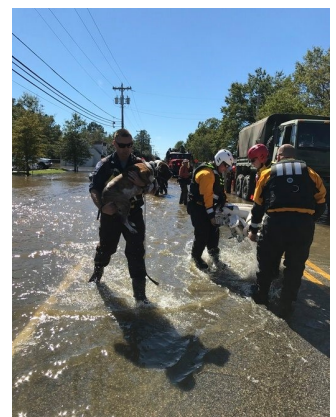
Empowering the Public through Preparedness

A major responsibility for emergency managers is supporting public preparedness. With the assistance of EMPG, local and tribal officials supported 25,154 preparedness outreach campaigns. Concurrently, state officials conducted 1,420 statewide citizen and community preparedness outreach campaigns.

In total, these outreach programs touched 184,613,063 citizens across the country.

From the President of the United States and FEMA Administrator to the local emergency manager of the smallest county, those involved in emergency management continually emphasize the critical nature of individuals and household preparedness. Given the nature of disasters, average citizens are often the true first responders, so the success of these communities depends on citizens being ready when disaster strikes.

The **State of Texas** points to training as their number one success story with EMPG. The state purchased specialized dual-use medical equipment which emergency managers utilize to not only provide vital medical training such as CPR and tourniquet use, but can also become fully-operational during the response to a disaster. This equipment was utilized multiple times during FY17 and is credited with saving several lives.



Communications & Warning Systems

Technology continues evolving as a requirement in establishing a robust response capability. Some examples are incident management software, shelter management software, or voluntary and donation management services. Grantees and sub-grantees utilized EMPG and state and local funds to purchase or maintain 487 state and 13,015 local emergency response systems or services.

Even the best technology cannot overcome the inability to effectively communicate and warn citizens. So in addition to response systems or services, 122 state and 1,304 local and tribal community warning systems and 134 state and 9,894 local and tribal redundant communications systems were purchased, maintained, or upgraded. These systems provide the ability to alert and warn response organizations and the public of both pending and spontaneous disaster events.

Communications, warning systems, and emergency operations centers support planning and response efforts. In fiscal year 2017, EMPG supported 182 state and 1,288 local emergency operations centers.

The **Florida Division of Emergency Management** updated five evacuations studies in 2017 based on new storm surge information. The evacuation study updates directly impacted evacuation decision-making during Hurricane Irma. The state was also able to deploy their All-Hazards Incident Management Team during the 2017 storms to support response efforts.

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 fiscal year 2017, EMPG supported 6,134 local and tribal and 6,355 statewide mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions, non-profit agencies, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADS), and the private sector.

These figures represent a 14 percent increase over the 2013 report.

In the wake of Hurricane Matthew, **Vero Beach, Florida** struggled with an archaic damage assessment process which significantly slowed recovery. With the purchase of new, upgraded equipment, damage assessments can now be completed on-site, are linked to the EOC for processing, and provide for a direct link with emergency management officials for technical assistance.

Bolivia, North Carolina conducted a baseline exercise on decontamination for citizens requiring special services such as the deaf and blind. The exercise was based on an incident at a local nuclear power plant. The exercise allowed state and local officials the ability to address 46 action items ranging from communications, access, and proper decontamination procedures.



With the assistance of EMPG funds, the **State of Michigan** conducted a 3-day full-scale exercise series focusing on the cascading impacts of long-term power outages as the result of a cyber-attack and severe weather. The opportunity brought together hundreds of people from over 60 agencies to test emergency plans and procedures. Through this exercise, the state identified gaps and began the process of updating and creating new plans, training courses, and exercises to further strengthen the capabilities of the state.

Conclusion

EMPG continues as a critical driver of progress and success made across the country in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards. The program's success is shared by all levels of government and relies heavily on the continued commitment of Congress.

In 2017, the federal investment in EMPG was \$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 communities from California to Texas to Florida.

Every investment the federal government makes is matched dollar for dollar and in most cases, states, locals, and tribes match even more. This illustrates, however, that any cuts to EMPG funding could have far-reaching and long-term impacts on readiness. In almost every category of data, emergency managers at the state and local level reported increases over the last year's data.



This is why in FY18, NEMA and IAEM came together in requesting a modest 5 percent inflationary increase for EMPG to \$368 million. Given the matching requirement of EMPG, many of which states and locals far exceed, this \$18 million increase will have an impact totaling at least \$36 million nationwide. Few other federal programs can demonstrate that rate of return.

Without a robust emergency management system, the responses to many disasters would falter or require federal support. Capabilities afforded through EMPG allow these events to be managed without additional federal expenditures. As demonstrated in this report, local, tribal, and state governments managed **35,109 events without federal assistance** in FY17. While disasters remain unpredictable, and no investment can completely eliminate risk, supporting the development of nationwide capabilities continues minimizing disaster effects.

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 over 4,200 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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Photo courtesy of Union County, Ohio