



FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of April 21, 2014  
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[PrepareAthon! National Day of Action](#)  
(April 30, 2014)

[Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)  
(Due May 12, 2014)

[FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards](#)  
(Due May 30, 2014)

## FEMA Announces Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

FEMA has announced \$112 million in funding available through two Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs: Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM). These two grant programs assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in strengthening our nation's ability to reduce the potential cost of natural disasters to communities and their citizens.

The FMA grant program provides funds on an annual basis so that measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The FY 2014 FMA grants will continue to focus on reducing or eliminating claims under the NFIP with a focus on mitigation planning and the mitigation of severe repetitive loss properties.

The PDM grant program provides funds on an annual basis for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster. The goal of the PDM grant program is to reduce overall risk to the population structures while also reducing reliance on federal funding from actual disaster declarations. The FY 2014 PDM grants will continue to focus on implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program and provide the grant funding set aside as required in the Stafford Act to states and tribes to support overall mitigation planning and projects.

Both HMA FY 2014 funding opportunity announcements can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Eligible applicants must apply for funding through the Mitigation eGrants system on the FEMA Grants Portal at [www.portal.fema.gov](http://www.portal.fema.gov). All applications must be submitted no later than **11:59 p.m. EDT on July 25, 2014**. Further information on these grant programs can be found at [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance).

## IPAWS and ODIC Host Roundtable about Improving Visual and Audible Communication Efforts

FEMA's Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS) and Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) are hosting the sixth semi-annual open roundtable and industry panel on **Wednesday, May 7 at 1 p.m. EDT** to discuss IPAWS alerting capabilities and support for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. This is the first event to focus on improving visual and audible communication efforts being led by individuals and organizations.

During this event, IPAWS will provide an update in coordination with selected industry experts on the IPAWS program and elicit feedback on current efforts and explore opportunities for expanded collaboration with federal partners and industry. Emerging technology and ongoing commercial and federal initiatives that may be leveraged in support of the disability community will be discussed.

Those interested in attending should email [hans.yu@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:hans.yu@fema.dhs.gov) or call (202) 646-3910 by **Wednesday, April 30**. American Sign Language (ASL) services will be available for those who attend in person. For those unable to attend in person, event will be [hosted by webinar](#) and [captioning will be provided](#).

FEMA's Office of External Affairs provides this bulletin to highlight recent and upcoming program and policy activities and announcements. Feedback is welcome at [fema-ea-bulletin@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-ea-bulletin@fema.dhs.gov).

**Open Joint Field Offices**  
AK, CO, GA, NC, NM, OK, SC, VT, WA, WV  
[Learn more.](#)

## Special America's PrepareAthon! Edition

Nearly one million people have already signed up for America's PrepareAthon! and it's not too late to join them. Read our insert to see events that communities and individuals are hosting, and participating in, to become more prepared.

[How are you going to participate?](#)

## Seeking Input on Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance

In January 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) provided federally recognized Indian tribal governments (tribal governments) the option to request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration independently of a state. To implement this historic provision, FEMA is initiating a second round of consultation on the working draft of the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance with tribal governments, conducting working meetings across the country to collect thoughts and comments from tribal governments.

Comments on the working draft of the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) can be sent to [tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov). More information about this consultation, including upcoming dates, is available at [www.fema.gov/tribal](http://www.fema.gov/tribal).

Together, we can support Indian Country in their efforts to build more resilient and better prepared communities.

If you have any questions, contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).

This newsletter is not intended to provide a comprehensive list of policies that are open for public comment, nor does it describe all of the instructions or requirements necessary to submit a comment. For a complete list of instructions and deadlines please click the hyperlinks included.

## **New Guidance Available for Applying ASCE 24-05 to Hazard Mitigation Flood Projects**

FEMA has released the publication of FEMA Policy 203-074-1, *Minimum Design Standards for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Projects in Flood Hazard Areas*. The policy will align structure elevation, dry flood proofing and mitigation reconstruction projects in flood hazard areas that are funded by the HMA grant program, with a nationally recognized consensus standard for flood resistant design and construction.

The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration's (FIMA) HMA programs provide grant funding assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments for eligible and cost-effective projects that increase resiliency by reducing and eliminating risks to property from flood hazards and their effects. All HMA-funded projects in flood hazard areas will be required to be designed and built according to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Standard 24-05, Flood Resistant Design and Construction, or its equivalent, as the minimum design criteria. ASCE 24-05 is a nationally recognized consensus standard for all flood resistant design and construction projects. The use of this recognized standard, and involvement of licensed design professionals for design and construction of HMA-funded projects in flood hazard areas, will provide for more consistent and efficient verification of engineering and technical feasibility and will help preserve the public investment toward reducing risk.

FEMA has also developed an implementation guidebook, *Guidance for Applying ASCE 24-05 Engineering Standards to Hazard Mitigation Flood Retrofitting and Reconstruction Projects*, which identifies key design and construction requirements that apply to HMA flood mitigation projects. The guidebook also provides guidance on how the standard should be applied to each HMA-eligible flood project type.

For more information on FEMA Policy 203-074-1, visit [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-policy](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-policy). More information is also available on the [ASCE 24-05 implementation guidebook](#).

### **Reminder: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Public Comment Period Still Open**

FEMA has issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking and is seeking public comment on implementing a provision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act regarding State administration of the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#).

Interested persons are invited to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views or arguments on all aspects of the advance notice of proposed rulemaking. FEMA specifically invites comments that relate to the economic, environmental or federalism effects that might result from implementation of any final rule.

**[Comments are due on or before May 12, 2014.](#)**

### **Reminder: National Preparedness Grant Application Period Still Open**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the release of FY 2014 Funding Opportunity Announcements for six DHS preparedness grant programs totaling over \$1.6 billion.

The Homeland Security grants assist states, urban areas, tribal and territorial governments, and nonprofit organizations as well as the private sector to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies in support of the National Preparedness Goal and the National Preparedness System.

**Completed final applications for these six preparedness grants are due no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 23, 2014.**

For more information, visit [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants).

### **Reminder: 2014 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Application Period Still Open**

FEMA has announced that the application period for the 2014 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is now open.

To be considered for this year's awards, all submissions must be received by **May 30, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. EDT** and must feature program activities taking place between January 1, 2013 and May 30, 2014. Winners will be announced in Fall 2014 and will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event.

Please visit [www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards](http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards) for more information about the awards and to download instructions for submitting an application.

The mission of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) is to engage, inform, and educate all of FEMA's stakeholders in support of the Agency's programs and initiatives to achieve its mission. OEA accomplishes its mission by coordinating and maintaining visibility of public and internal communications; advising FEMA program and support offices on decision-making regarding policies, plans, and actions that affect stakeholder, media, and Congressional audiences; and organizing outreach efforts targeted at principal stakeholders to include local, state, territorial, and tribal governments, the private sector, national organizations and associations, and the American public.





FEMA

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

## Special Spotlight: America's PrepareAthon!

National Day of Action: April 30, 2014

[www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare)

All across the country, states, local, tribal governments, community organizations, and members of the private sector have embraced America's PrepareAthon! by planning events that will help their community to be more prepared in the event of a wildfire, hurricane, tornado or flood. To date, nearly five million participants have registered to take part in an event.

There is still plenty of time to plan an event before the first **National Day of Action on April 30**. Below are several events happening in communities around the country, including some that you could participate in virtually.

### Nationwide

[#Petpared Twitter Challenge](#) – Complete pet preparedness actions, like creating a pet emergency kit and taking pets on an emergency drill. After finishing, take a picture of your pet and yourself and tweet it with the hashtag #Petpared by **April 30**.

[Formidable Footprint Flood Exercise](#) – This virtual exercise has been developed in accordance with Homeland Security and Evaluation Program protocols. The objective of the exercise series is for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), Neighborhood Watch Programs, Neighborhood Associations, Community / Faith-based Organizations, Citizen Corps, Fire Corps, and others to work as a team to become better prepared. It will take place nationwide on **April 26**.



A classroom participates in a readiness event.  
Photo courtesy of Brett Nason.

### State Governments

[Maryland Shelter Operations Training](#) – Participants will be taught about the basics of sheltering operations. They will simulate actions on how to open a shelter, what goes on during a shelter operation and how to close a shelter.

[Plymouth State University Preparedness Discussion](#) – Discussing preparedness with students, faculty and staff. There will be a call to action during this event to encourage students, faculty and staff to continue preparing for emergencies/disasters after the event on **April 25 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

### Local Governments

[Houston PrepareAthon! Flooding Event](#) – Attendees of this free community event in Houston, TX will receive flood and other emergency preparedness information from multiple agencies on **April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

[Idalou Community Tornado Drill](#) – The City of Idalou in Texas will activate warning systems to simulate a tornado warning. Residents and businesses are encouraged to practice their tornado emergency plan and seek shelter in their designated safe area when the emergency notification is received. The drill will take place on **April 30 from 6 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.**

### Community Organizations

[Ark of Safety Forum \(Rialto, CA\)](#) – The Ark of Safety Forum is an event designed to provide resources, education and encourage dialogue that will enable Houses of Worship and Faith-Based Organizations to be better prepared in case of a disaster on **April 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

[Be Prepared! \(Harlem, NY\)](#) – Information and handouts to residents and businesses on preparing for emergencies that hit urban centers on **April 30 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

### Private Sector

[Spanish Radio Station Hosts a Community Preparedness Discussion](#) – WQBN 1300am in Tampa will host a group of community leaders who will address how to be prepared in case of a disaster. The show will air on **April 27 from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

[Hotel Fire/Evacuation Drill](#) – A Hilton hotel in Chicago will have a full staff fire/evacuation drill on **April 26 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**