



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of June 16, 2014
Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Lightning Awareness Week](#)
(June 23-28, 2014)

[Continuing Training Grants](#)
(July 16, 2014)

[Rick Rescorla National
Award for Resilience](#)
(July 17, 2014)

FEMA Releases Fiscal Year 2014 Continuing Training Grant Funding Totaling \$11 Million to Increase Preparedness

FEMA released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Continuing Training Grant (CTG) program totaling \$11 million. The CTG helps strengthen national preparedness and provides specialized training to assist first responders, homeland security/emergency management officials and citizens to prepare for all types of disasters.

The highly competitive FY 2014 CTG program grants will be awarded to state and local (including rural) communities, tribes, nonprofit national associations and organizations, and nonprofit higher education institutions. Non-profits can include community and faith-based organizations or entities with existing programs that develop high priority national homeland security training programs. Multi-state and multi-jurisdictional applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate and apply with states and jurisdictions that have similar homeland security strategies and approaches.

The FY 2014 CTG program focuses on the following six areas: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction; Cybersecurity; Countering Violent Extremism; Maturing Public-Private Partnerships; Medical Readiness/Immediate Victim Care at Mass Casualty Events; and Rural Training. The grant awards will be announced by the end of FY 2014.

Applications for the FY 2014 CTG program are found at www.grants.gov. Applications must be completed and submitted through FEMA's Non-Disaster (ND) grants system located at <https://portal.fema.gov> by **July 16, 2014**.

Doctoral Research Will Provide Data for Policy Decisions in Emergency Management

Beatrice Gatto, a doctoral student at the Marche Polytechnic University in Ancona, Italy, visited FEMA in early June to meet with Marcie Roth, FEMA's Director of Disability Integration and Coordination, and members of her staff. Gatto is conducting research on disability inclusive emergency management under the auspices of the Polytechnic University of Marche and as a visiting scholar at the University of Delaware's (UD) Disaster Research Center.

Gatto's research centers on emergency planning in nursing homes where most of the residents have physical and cognitive disabilities. Gatto is taking an in-depth look at the emergency plans, if any, whether they are current, and if staff and residents know what to do according to the plan. At the public level, Gatto is engaging mayors in how they are including people with disabilities in municipal planning. In addition, she is developing an online survey for UD to poll people with disabilities regarding how much they know about their state emergency management office activities and services.

Gatto's research will provide data that can be used to make policy decisions in such situations as evacuations. Data-based information will also help determine the relationship between the extent of pre disaster planning and how it affects the safety of people with disabilities. Proper emergency planning takes into account the requirements of the whole community. When her research is finalized, Gatto plans to share the findings with FEMA.

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.

Open Joint Field Offices

AK, AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, IN, MD, MS, MT, NC, OR, SC, TN, VT, WA, WV
[Learn more.](#)

Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program Webinar

[Join a refresher webinar](#) on the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG), which provides matching federal funds to assist the nation's firefighters in controlling and extinguishing fires that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The webinar will be held **June 26, 2:30 p.m. (EDT)**. For more information, contact FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

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 initiated 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 comments and feedback from tribal governments.

Comments on the working draft of the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) can be sent to tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov. More information about this consultation, including upcoming dates, is available at www.fema.gov/tribal. Questions can be directed to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

This bulletin 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. FEMA does not endorse any non-government organizations, entities or services.

FEMA 101: Fire Management Assistance Grant Program

The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG) provides matching federal funds to assist our nation's firefighters' work to control and extinguish fires that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. An FMAG declaration provides an assurance that the federal government, through FEMA, will assist firefighters by providing financial support to control or suppress the declared fire event.

Firefighters operating at the scene of a complex or major fire need the ability to request and use resources from neighboring jurisdictions. The FMAG program leverages each jurisdiction's ability to use mutual-aid agreements for the movement of those assets in a timely manner, lessening concerns about the financial burden. At the conclusion of the fire incident, the state compiles the documentation for all responding entities and agencies and submits the financial records to their FEMA regional office. FEMA reviews the documentation and provides 75 percent funding for all eligible expenses.

To be eligible for grant funds, each state must meet an individual or cumulative fire cost threshold (FCT) before being eligible for reimbursement. The FCT is based on the state population, and is adjusted annually, based on the Consumer Price Index.

FMAG declarations are declared by the FEMA regional administrator on a 24-hour real-time basis while the fire is burning uncontrolled. More information about FMAG can be found at www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program.

Emergency Management Courses Available to Prepare for Hurricane Season

Emergency managers, volunteers, and the general public can take free online courses to help them prepare for the hurricane season that began June 1. Some of the courses available through FEMA's [Emergency Management Institute training site](#) include:

IS 11.a – Animals In Disasters: Community Planning

This course will instruct on how to develop a community plan for managing animals in an emergency, identify hazards and threats most likely to affect your community and ways to minimize their impact on animals, indicate how communities use the Incident Command System (ICS) to respond effectively to an incident involving animals, describe resources available to help communities recover from a disaster and develop community support for a disaster preparedness plan involving animals.

IS 317 – Intro to Community Emergency Response Teams

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates citizens about disaster preparedness and educates citizens on how to prepare its community and help it respond to and recover from disasters. The CERT Program trains in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. With proper CERT training, individuals can help protect families, neighbors and co-workers if a disaster occurs.

REMINDER: The Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience: Call for Applications

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is seeking nominations for the 2014 [Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience](#) to recognize leadership in fostering resilience over the course of 2013.

The Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience is DHS's national resilience award for superior leadership and innovation by a private sector individual or organization who exemplifies the qualities and achievements of Rick Rescorla. Resilience is the ability to adapt to changing conditions and withstand and rapidly recover from disruption due to emergencies. In 2014, there will be two separate awards for "for-profit" and for "non-for-profit" organizations.

Candidates may be nominated for the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience until **July 17, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EDT**. All nominations must be submitted by email to rescorlaaward@hq.dhs.gov. For further information, including the nomination form, please visit the web page at www.dhs.gov/rick-rescorla-national-award-resilience. **Questions concerning the award may be sent to bradley.garner@hq.dhs.gov.**

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.

