



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of August 18, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#)
(August 31, 2014)

[Flood Risk Mapping
Guidelines and Standards](#)
(September 3, 2014)

[National PrepareAthon! Day](#)
(September 30, 2014)

FEMA Announces Emergency Food and Shelter Program Awards for 2014

FEMA announced that federal funds totaling \$120 million were awarded to assist organizations dedicated to feeding, sheltering, and providing critical resources to our nation's hungry and homeless. Funding was made available by Congress for the National Board of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) to support social service agencies in cities and counties across the country.

A National Board, chaired by FEMA, with representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide, governs the EFSP. The National Board selected United Way Worldwide to serve as Secretariat and Fiscal Agent to the National Board.

EFSP funding is allocated to qualifying jurisdictions based on thresholds involving population, unemployment and poverty levels both nationally and locally. Grants are then awarded to non-profit community and government organizations that are chosen by Local Boards in the qualifying jurisdictions. This year's award to the National Board brings the total aid disbursed in the EFSP's 32-year history to more than \$4.0 billion.

Congress placed the EFSP under FEMA in 1983 to underscore the emergency nature of the funding in getting assistance to those most vulnerable with food and shelter needs. A state-by-state list of the eligible jurisdictions and their allocation amounts is [available online](#).

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Appeals Database Published

FEMA announced the publication of the [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\) Appeals Database](#). The HMGP provides grants to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration and aims to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters. It also enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. This online, searchable database containing FEMA responses to applicant appeals for assistance will inform the public on how program requirements are applied.

Under HMGP, an eligible applicant may appeal any FEMA determination regarding applications submitted for funding. The appeal process allows applicants to request a reconsideration of the decision against program requirements. There are two levels of appeals. First, the Regional Administrator adjudicates appeals. If FEMA denies the appeal, the applicant may submit a second appeal to the Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation. If FEMA approves an appeal, the Agency will take the appropriate action to implement the decision. The database houses the HMGP second appeal records since 1988 and first level appeals since 2011.

For more information on the terms used in the database, users can reference the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Digest](#) for a brief summary of the basic program elements. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance datasets are also available through [OpenFEMA](#). FEMA converted letters to a text searchable format; a small percentage of translation error may have occurred.

This database contains historical records and some determinations may have been superseded by new guidance or policy. Questions can be addressed to the Grants Policy Branch at FEMA-HMA-Grants-Policy@fema.dhs.gov.

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. Previous editions are available at the [FEMA library](#).

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FEMA Amends Dispute Resolution Pilot Program Threshold

On August 15, 2014, FEMA published a [Federal Register Notice](#) formally adjusting the legitimate amount in dispute for the Dispute Resolution Pilot Program for Public Assistance appeals. FEMA has increased the legitimate amount in dispute to \$1,015,000 for all disasters declared on or after October 30, 2012.

FEMA bases the adjustment on an increase in the consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers provided by The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

"Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare"

The [Ready](#) Campaign established four universal building blocks of emergency preparedness: Be informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Get Involved. America's PrepareAthon! builds on this foundation by encouraging millions of Americans to focus on a simple, specific activity that will increase preparedness.

America's PrepareAthon! is a national community-based campaign for action that focuses on increasing emergency preparedness through hazard-specific drills, group discussions and exercises. During [National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM) in September individuals and communities are encouraged to take action by planning a [National PrepareAthon! Day](#) on or around September 30.

[Register a National PrepareAthon! Day event](#) or download the [2014 NPM digital engagement toolkit](#). For more information on NPM, visit www.ready.gov/september.

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 Launches Spanish-Language App

FEMA launched a free Spanish-language app with information on what individuals can do before, during and after a disaster to keep families and communities safer. The app offers a wide array of information for the public and disaster survivors, preparedness tips, locations of nearby shelters, what to include in an emergency supply kit and a user friendly interface for survivors who may need assistance from FEMA after a disaster.

Some key features of the app include:

- **Safety tips:** This feature helps users prepare for flooding, hurricanes, and tornadoes and other major disasters by providing tips on how to be aware of an impending disaster and how what steps to take during and after a major event.
- **Emergency Meeting Locations:** This tool offers the capability to set an emergency meeting location for you and your family with the option of having a primary, secondary and out of state location.
- **Apply for Assistance:** The FEMA Spanish app will help users locate a disaster recovery center after an individual assistance declaration has been issued and will provide detailed information about how to offer volunteer services and donations.

The app offers pre-loaded content ensuring that FEMA guidance is available anytime, anywhere – even if no Internet connection is available. The app is free and available for iPhones and Android devices in iTunes and the Google Play Store.

FEMA 101: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Following a major disaster, first responders will not be able to meet the demand for services generally expected by the public. Factors such as the number of injured, communications failures and road blockages will prevent services such as fire and medical from responding to an incident at a moment's notice. To combat this problem, FEMA formed the [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Program](#) to educate civilians and train them how to be emergency managers before full time emergency services can respond. The [CERT training course](#) is a major benefit to all participants and their communities. Individuals will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue survivors safely and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

REMINDER: FEMA Extends Tribal Consultation Period for Draft of Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance

In January 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act provided federally recognized tribal governments the option to request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration independently of a state. FEMA drafted the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance. Since initiating tribal consultation on the draft in April 2014, FEMA staff have met face-to-face with tribal leaders or their designees around the country to discuss the proposed guidance and ways to improve the draft.

FEMA is extending the tribal consultation period for the draft of the Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance. **Tribal governments may submit comments through August 31, 2014.** Comments on the draft of the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) can be sent to tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov.

REMINDER: Flood Risk Mapping Guidelines and Standards

FEMA established a maintenance plan for the Risk MAP Guidelines and Standards and plans to issue updates on a semi-annual basis. As part of this current update, a [public review announcement](#) provides an opportunity for comment prior to incorporation into the policy. This announcement lists proposed updates to existing standards and drafts of new standards.

FEMA intends to publish these standards as a part of the Policy for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping. Comments may be provided via email to FEMA.GS@riskmapcads.com. Comments received prior to **September 3, 2014**, will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate before the standards are finalized.

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.

