



FEMA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Week of November 10, 2014

Important Dates and Deadlines:

[Unified Federal Review
Applicant Guidance](#)
(November 28, 2014)

[Assistance to Firefighters Grants](#)
(December 5, 2014)

[Proposed Public Assistance
Policy on Insurance](#)
(December 8, 2014)

OMB Guidance on Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles and Audit Requirements

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published federal government-wide regulation (known as a Super Circular) on administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements on December 26, 2013. The Super Circular provides guidance on administrative aspects for federal grants (e.g., how grants are awarded, managed, audited and closed out). The government-wide framework for grants management is intended to reduce administrative burden for non-federal entities receiving federal awards while reducing the risk of waste, fraud and abuse. The OMB Super Circular will not affect the purpose of FEMA's disaster and non-disaster grant programs (i.e., program eligibility requirements for Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Assistance or preparedness grants). DHS is expected to publish regulations that will make the regulations applicable to FEMA grants issued on or after **December 26, 2014**. FEMA looks forward to working with state, local, tribal and territorial governments as well as non-profit and for-profit organizations regarding the new administrative regulations and plans to offer an overview webinar on the new guidance. More information about the OMB Super Circular will be coming in future editions of the External Affairs Bulletin.

Ready, the Ad Council and Disney Encourage Emergency Preparedness for Kids with "Big Hero 6"

Recognizing that children have the ability to play an important role in preparing themselves, their families and their communities for a disaster, FEMA's *Ready Campaign*, along with the Ad Council and Disney, released new [Public Service Advertisements](#) (PSAs) as an extension of Ready Kids' ongoing outreach. These PSAs highlight several steps that kids can take to prepare for emergencies: Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Know The Facts. The new English and Spanish PSAs feature leading characters from Walt Disney Animation Studios' recently released film "[Big Hero 6](#)," and they encourage viewers to visit www.ready.gov/kids to learn how to prepare for emergencies.

Research shows that it is important to educate and empower young people to prepare for disasters. A 2010 study from Oregon State University showed that 14 percent of children and teens had experienced a disaster during their lifetime, and four percent had been in a disaster within the past year. Of those who had experience with disaster, a quarter reported experiencing more than one. In September, FEMA announced a new strategy to educate young people about disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. The [National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education: Empowering, Educating and Building Resilience](#) (National Strategy) couples attention on emergency and disaster preparedness with community action that focuses specifically on youth readiness for disasters and related events. The National Strategy was developed in partnership with the American Red Cross and the U.S. Department of Education, and more than 25 organizations have affirmed their support.



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](#).

Open Joint Field Offices

AS, CA, HI, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, NM, NY, SD, TN, WA
[Learn more.](#)

OMB Super Circular Guidance: More Information

- The Super Circular is located in the [Code of Federal Regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 200](#).
- Copies of the OMB Circulars that are superseded by the Super Circular are available on [OMB's website](#).
- The [Chief Financial Officers Council website](#) provides additional information, including FAQs and webinars.

Get Involved with National Critical Infrastructure and Security Month

- Share stories and information about efforts in support of infrastructure security and resilience with customers, constituents, partners, residents, and employees through newsletters, websites, emails, blog posts and tweets.
- Follow [@DHSgov](#) on Twitter, and post infrastructure security and resilience efforts, tips, news and resources on social media sites.
- Request a Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month toolkit to help spread the word by mailing infrastructure@hq.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.

Winter Storm Preparation Training Opportunity

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) can help reach community-based training audiences around the country through a series of free Virtual TableTop Exercise (VTTX) Programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 using video teleconference technology to train for various disasters.

The course on winter storms will be held on **November 12, 13 and 14, 2014**, and will involve key personnel from the emergency management community reviewing a pre-packaged set of exercise materials. Participants will then convene for a four hour table top exercise from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST to discuss simulated disaster scenarios. Emergency management officials will assess plans, policies and procedures while learning from the other connected sites on how they faced similar situations, gaining knowledge and new perspective. Participants will exercise their knowledge, skills and abilities needed to effectively conduct all-hazards emergency mitigation, response and recovery for winter storms or any disaster that may affect their community.

The VTTX training will be held within 10-15 site locations. For additional program information, contact the VTTX Program Manager Doug Kahn at 301-447-7645 or Douglas.Kahn@fema.dhs.gov. A standard VTC system is required for participation. A complete list of the FY 2015 VTTX training scenarios is available at www.training.fema.gov/EMICourses.

REMINDER: Unified Federal Review Applicant Guidance Open for Comment

FEMA, in conjunction with its interagency Steering Group, announced the public review period for the Draft Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidance for Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance Applicants. The Draft Applicant Guidance is an important step in the implementation of the Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review Process (Unified Federal Review). Additional information on the Unified Federal Review is [available online](#).

To access the Draft Applicant Guidance and for further instructions on submitting comments, please visit the [Unified Federal Review webpage](#). **Comments can be submitted through November 28, 2014.**

REMINDER: Application Period for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Open until December 5

FEMA announced the opening of the FY 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) application period, which will close on **Friday, December 5, at 5 p.m. EST**. All eligible applicants for AFG must be registered and active in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting an application. Per 2 CFR § 25.205, FEMA may not make an award to an entity until the entity has complied with the requirements to provide a valid Dun & Bradstreet (D-U-N-S Number) and maintain an active SAM registration with current information. To register, or to validate information, please visit the [SAM website](#).

For questions about the AFG Program, please contact a fire program specialist in one of the [10 federal regional centers](#) or the AFG Program Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or firegrants@dhs.gov.

REMINDER: Proposed Public Assistance Policy on Insurance Open for Comment

FEMA seeks public comments from state, tribal, territorial and local governments, private non-profit organizations, and interested members of the public regarding its proposed Public Assistance policy on insurance. Comments must be submitted through the process outlined in the [Federal Register Notice](#) and are due on **December 8, 2014**.

This proposed policy makes several changes including clarifying key terms, the scope of insurance needed, and the difference between flood and non-flood events. The policy also proposes options to self-insure, modify the insurance requirement and sets standards for State Insurance Commissioner certification.

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.

