



FEMA

Fact Sheet

National Advisory Council

NAC Overview

The National Advisory Council (NAC) advises the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on all aspects of emergency management. The NAC's mission is to provide recommendations and advice to the Administrator from a whole community perspective to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of national preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. The input of the NAC members supports the development and revision of FEMA policies and strategies.

The NAC first met in 2007 after its establishment by the enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PL 109-295) and continues to meet in person up to twice a year. NAC meetings are open to the public per the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the NAC meetings is to engage in a dialogue with the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, and other senior Agency officials, receive report-outs from NAC subcommittees, and discuss and deliberate recommendations to forward to the Administrator.

The NAC has three standing subcommittees that reflect FEMA's programs: the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Subcommittee, the Preparedness and Protection Subcommittee, and the Response and Recovery Subcommittee. The subcommittee members meet by teleconference on a regular basis for the purpose of receiving information from subject matter experts and developing recommendations on FEMA policies and strategies to report out at the in-person NAC meetings.

NAC Membership

The membership of the NAC may consist of up to 35 members appointed by and serving at the discretion of the Administrator. NAC members serve for terms of three years with approximately one-third of the membership's terms ending each year, allowing FEMA to seek new members every year. The NAC members are influential senior leaders from a diverse cross-section of professional and geographic areas in state, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. This diversity provides the Administrator with the best possible input from the Agency's stakeholders and partners.

The Administrator appoints a Chair and a Vice Chair to the NAC. Additionally, each subcommittee has a Chair and Vice Chair.

NAC Accomplishments

Since its inception, the NAC has submitted over 200 recommendations to the Administrator. Examples of the types of recommendations and their impacts include:

- In August 2008, the NAC recommended that FEMA create a regional disability coordinator position for each of the 10 FEMA regions. In August 2010, FEMA posted the announcement for the Regional Disability Integration Specialist positions, which are responsible for supporting the integration and planning of people with disabilities and access and functional needs at the regional level into emergency management practices. Since 2010, the [Office of Disability Integration and Coordination](#) has also established a Disability Integration Advisor Cadre. The cadre includes full time employees and reservists, some of whom are qualified sign language interpreters. Disability Integration Advisors have deployed to more than 80 disasters since 2011.
- In September 2010, the NAC recommended that “the Administrator support amending legislation that will place tribal governments at same level as state governments,” and that “the Administrator continues to support the removal of impediments to working with tribal governments.” In January 2013, Congress amended the Stafford Act to allow federally recognized tribes to make direct requests to the President for Disaster or Emergency Declarations and developed interim guidelines to assist tribes in seeking a declaration. In December 2013, the Agency renewed the FEMA Tribal Policy that guides FEMA’s government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes across the United States. In October of 2013, FEMA proposed a FEMA Tribal Consultation Policy and held a five month consultation period with tribal officials to discuss the proposed policy and accept feedback. The [Tribal Consultation Policy](#) in its final form was issued in August 2014.
- In December 2013, the NAC proposed that FEMA conduct a review of the [Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#) to improve training and outreach related to flood insurance and the CRS as part of a larger recommendation on the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. Since then, FEMA has completed its review of the CRS and has updated its outreach strategy to further educate consumers, stakeholders, elected officials, and the media.
- Additionally, the NAC has supplied input on the development, revision, and implementation of the [National Response Framework](#), the [National Incident Management System](#), the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#), and the [National Disaster Housing Strategy](#).

FEMA’s Office of the NAC serves as the focal point for coordination between FEMA and the NAC. For additional information, please visit the NAC website at <http://www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council> or contact FEMA’s Office of the NAC at (202) 646-2700.

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“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”

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