

## **FEMA Now Accepting Applications for the 2016 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards**



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is pleased to announce that the application period for the 2016 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is now open. Now in its eighth year, the awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by individuals and organizations that made outstanding contributions toward building safer, better prepared, and more resilient communities.

Winning a FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award or honorable mention can help applicants:

- Gain additional resources for their community preparedness efforts;
- Expose their program to national media; and
- Expand their organization's local, state, federal, territorial, and tribal networks.

The awards are an opportunity to recognize the work programs do to build a nation that is more prepared for emergencies and disasters. More information about the awards is available at [www.ready.gov/preparedness-awards](http://www.ready.gov/preparedness-awards).

**Apply today!** All submissions must be received by **Monday, March 28 at 11:59 p.m. EDT** and must feature program activities taking place between January 1, 2015, and March 28, 2016. Submit applications to [citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov). We will announce winners fall 2016, and they will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington, D.C.

We encourage Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Citizen Corps Partner Programs around the nation to apply for the following awards categories:

### **Outstanding Citizen Corps Council**

Presented to a Citizen Corps Council (community, county, regional, tribal, or state) that demonstrates whole community collaboration to achieve innovative and sustainable practices in emergency management to make the jurisdiction safer, stronger, better prepared, and more resilient.

### **Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiative**

Presented to a Community Emergency Response Team or program that has made a significant contribution to response or recovery efforts during a disaster; has demonstrated innovation in operations, outreach, or training practices; or, excels in educating community members about disaster response skills and preparedness.

### **Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program**

Presented to a Citizen Corps Partner Program that demonstrates excellence and innovation in achieving the program's mission. Eligible programs include Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Medical Reserve Corps, CERT, and Volunteers in Police Service. Volunteer recruitment and sustainment, capacity building, and return on investment are factors for evaluation.