

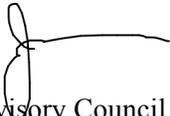


FEMA

National Advisory Council

June 2, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FROM: James Featherstone 
Chairman
FEMA National Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Recommendations from May 2016 NAC Meeting

The purpose of this memorandum is to forward the FEMA National Advisory Council (NAC) recommendations from the May 2016 meeting in San Antonio, TX for your consideration.

The NAC met in a public session to review the progress of its three subcommittees since its last meeting in February 2016 and to deliberate any potential recommendations set forth by its subcommittees.

Through discussions and deliberations, the NAC concurred to submit seven recommendations to you in the following areas: Community Rating System Participation, Critical Infrastructure Resiliency, and Preparedness Education and Outreach for Public Health. The recommendations are as follows:

I. Community Rating System Participation (3 recommendations)

Issue #1: The Community Rating System (CRS) is a proven program that recognizes and incentivizes local and tribal governments that voluntarily undertake floodplain management activities that minimize the flood risk to their communities and reduce policyholder premiums. However, while 69 percent of all current policies are written in CRS communities, only approximately 1,400 local and tribal governments participate in the program.

Recommendation 2016-30: FEMA should identify the highest risk communities (local and tribal governments nationwide) in each state and work with the communities through the state (or directly with the tribal government) to identify and implement floodplain mitigation projects to improve the community's CRS class. Cost/Benefit Analysis and/or Return on Investment for hazard mitigation grants for floodplain mitigation projects should include the savings on premiums of policy holders who will receive higher discounts as a result of an improved CRS class.

Recommendation 2016-31: FEMA should, utilizing the "What If" model, identify the top 50 non-CRS participating communities (local and tribal governments nationwide), as defined by savings that can be achieved by participating in the CRS program, and develop an outreach strategy to encourage these communities to voluntarily apply to join the CRS Program within the next 12 months. FEMA should report back to the NAC the success of this effort.

Recommendation 2016-32: FEMA should ensure that communities that desire to participate in the CRS program are not penalized in their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) due to findings of "non-compliance" or other violations of the NFIP that are discovered as a result of the assessment/review conducted as part of the community's CRS application. The NAC recommends that

nothing in this recommendation should imply that a community should not come into compliance with NFIP standards within a reasonable period of time.

II. Critical Infrastructure Resiliency (3 recommendations)

Issue #2: Critical infrastructure in the U.S. is aging and at risk for failure, endangering the surrounding communities.

Recommendation 2016-33: The FEMA National Advisory Council should amend its charter to include at least one member specializing in the maintenance and operation of critical infrastructure to proactively collaborate in building resiliency and elevate issues of critical infrastructure improvement.

Recommendation 2016-34: For the National Exercise Program 2017-2018, FEMA National Exercise Division should include a Principle Objective that focuses on the failures of critical infrastructure.

Recommendation 2016-35: FEMA National Exercise Division should more proactively engage with all 16 critical infrastructure sectors during all future national exercise cycles to ensure that their capabilities and gaps are addressed.

III. Preparedness Education and Outreach for Public Health (1 recommendation)

Issue #3: The federal government should have consistent messaging around public health preparedness when it comes to high consequence infectious diseases, regardless of which agency is the lead for response. There is an opportunity for federal agencies to remove silos and amplify preparedness messages to stakeholders, and to improve outcomes for Zika prevention in the very short term.

Recommendation 2016-36: In an attempt to reach more people, FEMA should coordinate with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other appropriate interagency, public health, private sector, and medical partners to develop and immediately implement education and outreach (using all of its media capabilities) on public prevention and personal preparedness and protection from Zika and other high consequence infectious diseases.