

2021 NAC Charges

Expedite Disaster Assistance

Charge: Identify ways to expedite disaster assistance for communities.

Problem: The large number of declared disasters limits FEMA's ability to focus on catastrophic disasters while administrative costs for small disasters can exceed the amount of aid provided. Further, measures to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse can slow the delivery of aid and may ultimately cost more than they save.

Questions:

- a. How can FEMA speed the delivery of disaster assistance while balancing potential waste, fraud, abuse, and other considerations?
- b. How can FEMA improve the damage assessment and assistance estimation processes on the front end to balance both state and federal requirements? What proactive steps can the emergency management community undertake to develop estimates of need and to expedite 428 program assistance?
- c. How can FEMA improve the disaster assistance documentation process to become less time consuming?
- d. Are there practical parametric solutions that can be implemented within current authorities? If not, what authorities would be needed?
- e. How could planning at the community level be better incorporated into the declaration process so that when the funding becomes available, the work is already identified and ready to start?

Create an Equity Standard

Charge: Create a standard which FEMA can use to evaluate its programs to ensure they achieve equitable outcomes, starting with the disaster assistance programs.

Problem: Though the Stafford Act requires that FEMA provide disaster assistance based on need, quickly and accurately assessing that need is a challenge. Because of this challenge, FEMA assistance programs seem to exacerbate inequity in communities.

Questions:

- a. What is the standard by which FEMA can evaluate its programs to ensure they achieve equitable outcomes?
- b. How can FEMA provide funding to communities in greatest need of support while also encouraging communities to build resilience and not simply wait for federal funding?
- c. What measures should FEMA use to assess equitable outcomes, and how will it track those?
- d. Does FEMA need new or different authorities to achieve these equitable outcomes?



FEMA

Vision 2045 Roadmap

Charge: Develop a high-level roadmap for the NAC 2045 Vision charge.

Problem: The NAC's 2020 Report describes a vision for the emergency management community in 2045 and anticipates that programmatic and legislative changes may be required to achieve this vision. However, there is no roadmap that would allow FEMA to implement that vision.

The response should:

- a. Identify the FEMA organization that will be needed to implement the vision. This should be high-level and the structure should follow functions identified in the vision.
- b. Describe what authorities would be required to achieve the vision. Some non-exhaustive examples would include the authorities to:
 1. Measure the outcomes that Congress wants FEMA to achieve.
 2. Ensure equity in outcomes for FEMA programs.
 3. Achieve faster disaster grant disbursements.
 4. Further incentivize mitigation, insurance, and other key community behaviors to increase resilience.
- c. Outline, in general, any resources that will be required to implement the vision.
- d. Develop an implementation matrix, outlining necessary actions and a realistic timeline for completion.