

# Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program

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## 1. What is the purpose of the FY 2021 EMPG Program?

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program is one of the grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) focus on all-hazards emergency preparedness. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, EMPG supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience.

## 2. What legislation authorizes funding for the FY 2021 EMPG?

Section 662 of the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006* (PKEMRA), as amended, (Pub. L. No. 109-295) (6 U.S.C. § 762); Title VI of the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 93-288) (42 U.S.C. §§ 5121 *et seq.*); the *Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 95-124) (42 U.S.C. §§ 7701 *et seq.*); and the *National Flood Insurance Act of 1968*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 90-448) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4001 *et seq.*).

## 3. How much funding is available under the FY 2021 EMPG Program?

The total amount of funds to be distributed under the FY 2021 EMPG Program will be \$455.1 million. This includes \$355.1 million appropriated by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260); an additional \$100 million appropriated by Section 4014 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 117-2), and; \$100,000 from the Disaster Relief Fund that FEMA must make available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands pursuant to Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement of the *Compact of Free Association Act* (Pub. L. No. 108- 188).

## 4. What are the changes in funding levels between FY 2020 and FY 2021?

The funding level for the FY 2021 EMPG Program is \$100 million higher compared to FY 2020 due to the supplemental ARPA funding.

## 5. Where is the FY 2021 EMPG Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) located?

The FY 2021 EMPG Program NOFO is located online at [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants) as well as on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## 6. Who is eligible to apply for FY 2021 EMPG Program funds?

All 56 states and territories, as well as the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (collectively “state or territory”), are eligible to apply for FY 2021 EMPG Program funds.



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All 56 states and territories are eligible to apply for EMPG-ARPA funds; however, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia are **not** eligible to apply for EMPG-ARPA funding. Either the State Administrative Agency (SAA) or the State's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is eligible to apply directly to FEMA for EMPG Program funds on behalf of each state or territory. However, only one application will be accepted from each state or territory.

#### 7. How will the FY 2021 EMPG Program applications be submitted?

Applying for an award under the EMPG Program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. **Applicants must submit two separate applications—one for the original FY 2021 EMPG Program and one for the EMPG-ARPA supplemental funding.** Applicants are encouraged to register early as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the ability to meet required submission deadlines. Please refer to Section D in the FY 2021 EMPG Program NOFO for detailed information and instructions.

Eligible applicants must submit their initial application through the Grants.gov portal at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) no later than seven days before the final application deadline. Applicants needing Grants.gov support should contact the Grants.gov customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726.

Eligible applicants will be notified by FEMA and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in the [Non-Disaster \(ND\) Grants System](#). Applicants needing technical support with the ND Grants System, please contact [ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov) or (800) 865-4076, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. ET on May 14, 2021.

#### 8. Why are applicants required to submit two separate FY 2021 EMPG Program applications?

As the federal awarding agency, FEMA must have the ability to track, analyze, and report on the ARPA funding and expenditures separate from the FY 2021 EMPG Program funding. To accomplish this, FEMA must issue separate awards for each funding source, and so applicants must submit separate applications—one for each funding source.

#### 9. What are the key dates associated with the FY 2021 EMPG Program?

- February 25, 2021: Release date for the FY 2021 EMPG Program NOFO.
- May 14, 2021, 5 p.m. ET: Applications for the FY 2021 EMPG Program due to FEMA.

#### 10. How will FY 2021 EMPG Program funds be allocated?

EMPG Program awards are based on Section 662 of the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006*, as amended, (6 U.S.C. § 762). All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico receive a base amount of 0.75 percent of the total available funding appropriated for the EMPG Program. Four territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) receive a base amount of 0.25 percent of the total available funding appropriated for the EMPG Program. The remaining balance of the funds appropriated are distributed on a population-share basis. Pursuant to Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement of the *Compact of Free Association Act* (Pub. L. No. 108-188), a set amount of funds



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(\$100,000 total) are also available from the Disaster Relief Fund for the Federated States of Micronesia and for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

#### **11. How should I identify priorities for EMPG Program funding?**

States/territories are required to prioritize grant funding to demonstrate how FY 2021 EMPG Program-funded investments support closing capability gaps or sustaining capabilities identified in the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)/Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) process and other relevant information sources, such as: 1) after-action reports (AARs) following exercises or real-world events; 2) audit and monitoring findings; 3) Hazard Mitigation Plans; and/or 4) other deliberate planning products. In advance of issuing the FY 2021 EMPG Program awards, FEMA Regional Administrators will identify regional priorities based on their unique knowledge of the region's preparedness and emergency management needs and will share those priorities with the states and territories within their region. The final priorities will be identified and mutually agreed to by the state/territory and Regional Administrator through a collaborative negotiation process. The identified priorities will be captured in the required state/territory's EMPG Work Plan submission.

#### **12. How should I link EMPG Program-funded projects to the identified priorities?**

The EMPG Program Work Plan requirements, and the Work Plan Template, have been updated to support the collection of objective information and quantitative data that will allow FEMA to more effectively measure program effectiveness and investment impacts. This also enables compliance with [2 C.F.R. § 200.301](#), which requires federal awarding agencies to measure recipient performance to show achievement of program goals and objectives, share lessons learned, improve program outcomes, and foster adoption of promising practices. To this end, the new EMPG Program NOFO and Work Plan requires recipients to link EMPG Program-funded investments to THIRA/SPR results and other relevant materials that inform capability priorities and needs – and to include specific performance measures that will allow FEMA to measure the impact of those investments based on the core capabilities that are being addressed.

#### **13. Is submission of a Work Plan required, and is there a Work Plan Template I can use?**

Consistent with previous years, submission of an EMPG Program Work Plan is mandatory, as it is a required component of the EMPG Program application. The Work Plan outlines the state/territory's emergency management sustainment and enhancement efforts, including new and ongoing activities and projects, that are driven by identified preparedness priorities and proposed for the EMPG Program period of performance. An EMPG Program Work Plan Template (available on the [Grants.gov](#) EMPG Program application page and on the [Fema.gov website](#)) is provided to facilitate the work plan development process. The submitted EMPG Program Work Plan must address all the information requirements included in the Work Plan Template, supplemental guidance included in FY 2021 EMPG NOFO, and [Preparedness Grants Manual](#). Therefore, while not required, EMPG Program applicants are strongly encouraged to use the available EMPG Program Work Plan Template.

#### **14. Are there any minimum spend requirements for the FY 2021 EMPG Program?**

At least 87.5 percent of all projects that include Planning, Training, and/or Exercise deliverables must align with closing capability gaps identified and documented in the state/territory's most recent THIRA/SPR submission and other relevant information sources, as explained above.



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**15. What is the FY 2021 EMPG Program period of performance?**

The period of performance is 36 months.

**16. What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical and financial questions?**

- The FY 2021 EMPG NOFO is located online at [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants) as well as on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).
- For additional program-specific information, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, or by e-mail at [ASKCsid@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ASKCsid@fema.dhs.gov)
- For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the DHS/FEMA Award Administration Help Desk via e-mail at [ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov).
- The FEMA Regions also provide technical assistance to EMPG Program primary recipients. A list of contacts in the FEMA Regions is available at [www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts](http://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts).



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