



## Tribal Consultation on FEMA Preparedness Grant Programs Framing Paper

June 22, 2022, 1:30-3:00 P.M. ET

### Overarching Consultation Questions

*What courses of action can the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) take to ensure Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA grant programs are accessible and meet the emergency preparedness and resilience needs of tribal nations to the maximum extent possible? What additional barriers and challenges do tribal nations face in accessing and leveraging FEMA grant programs?*

### Background

FEMA's [2022-2026 Strategic Plan Goal 1.2](#) includes a commitment to transform our service to tribal nations to acknowledge tribal sovereignty and respond to the needs of each tribal nation. Over the past few decades, FEMA has received tribal feedback about the lack of access to DHS/FEMA preparedness grant funding, including the [Emergency Management Performance Grant \(EMPG\)](#) and the [Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program \(THSGP\)](#). This lack of access compounds pre-existing and historical inequities for tribal nations.

The EMPG provides state, local, tribal and territorial emergency management agencies with the resources required for implementation of the National Preparedness System and works toward the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. The THSGP plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustaining and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal. We have heard that tribal nations have limited access to the DHS/ FEMA preparedness grant funding to prepare for all hazards, build and maintain their emergency management capability, and meet the minimum requirements of the [Homeland Security Act of 2002](#), [the Stafford Act](#), and FEMA programs to receive assistance. This lack of access compounds pre-existing and historical inequities for tribal nations.

FEMA remains committed to its responsibility under Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, reaffirmed by President Biden's [January 26, 2021, Memorandum](#) on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, and reflected in [FEMA's Tribal Consultation Policy](#), to engage in meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials. In addition, [FEMA's Tribal Policy](#) outlines a framework for nation-to-nation relations between FEMA and tribal nations that recognizes tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and FEMA's responsibilities, consistent with applicable authorities.

The purpose of the June 22, 2022 tribal consultation is to review the tribal feedback FEMA has received to date and gather additional feedback on how FEMA can increase tribal access to its preparedness grant programs. The virtual consultation will be hosted on the Zoom for Government platform. Please register [here](#) to attend.

### Tribal Feedback

FEMA has received feedback from tribal nations about their experiences and needs as applicants and recipients of DHS/FEMA preparedness grant programs, including a need for legislative changes to the authorizing statutes and regulatory changes to [2 CFR Part 200](#) to:

- Provide direct access to disaster management and preparedness grant funding for all tribal

- nations;
- Eliminate cost-share requirements for tribal governments;
  - Ensure full access to funding for emergency management personnel and disaster emergency management infrastructure (e.g., Emergency Operations Centers);
  - Streamline the grant application and management processes to eliminate unnecessary or burdensome requirements;
  - Increase grant funding to support tribal emergency management capacity-building;
  - Eliminate any mandates to work through states or comply with state processes when working directly with FEMA for assistance;
  - Ensure funding addresses all hazards and/or removes the terrorism nexus from the THSGP; and
  - Provide greater flexibility for recipients to meet grant requirements (e.g., additional time) ([2 CFR](#)).

## Discussion Questions

FEMA seeks tribal input on how DHS/FEMA grants can better serve your emergency preparedness and resilience needs. Below are questions for your consideration, not in order of priority and not exclusive. FEMA welcomes broader input on our activities in support of tribal nations.

1. Regarding the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program:
  - a. Should the scope of this grant expand beyond terrorism and the national priority areas to address all hazards and tribal preparedness priorities?
  - b. Should more time be given to meet the requirements of the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#) implementation criteria?
  - c. Should the grant award period expand beyond 60 or 90 days to allow sufficient time for tribal nations to receive the award and complete the [Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review \(THIRA/SPR\)](#)?
2. What additional challenges do tribal governments face in requesting, receiving, and managing FEMA grant funding, including the Emergency Management Performance Grant and Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program?
  - a. What support could FEMA provide to assist tribal governments in managing FEMA grant funding throughout the grant lifecycle (e.g., planning, project development, application, grants management, and close out)?
3. What tribal cultural needs could emergency preparedness grant funding be used to support?
4. Would flexibility to use the grant funding to support the completion of grant requirements be helpful (e.g., the [THIRA/SPR](#))?
5. What would tribal leaders like to see in the future in terms of using FEMA grants to help build resilience?

All consultation materials may be found at: [www.fema.gov/about/tribes/consultations](http://www.fema.gov/about/tribes/consultations). The consultation record will remain open for 30 days after the virtual session for tribal leaders to submit feedback or comments to [gpd-comms@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:gpd-comms@fema.dhs.gov). Final feedback and comments are due by Friday, July 22, 2022.