

Emergency Management Program Grant
was intended to assist jurisdictions
to develop & maintain the DES position
although there has historically been
certain requirements, guidance
and documentation, counties were
allowed to determine how to
best address their programs

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made or natural disaster. As a result, NACo supports DHS' Office for Interoperability and Compatibility in its effort to carry out its statutory authority to support the creation of national voluntary consensus standards for interoperable communications. In particular, NACo supports the Office's development of data messaging standards in coordination with state and local representatives. NACo encourages Congress and DHS to adequately fund this critical initiative in order to meet the needs of emergency responders across the nation.

DHS, the Department of Commerce, Congress, and other relevant federal agencies must continue to promote coordinated development of governance, technology, and protocols necessary to enhance minimal capabilities for interoperable communications (voice, video, and data) among all levels of government and the private sector.

DHS, the Department of Commerce, Congress, and other relevant federal agencies must establish incentives for private sector organizations to work with government to develop and maintain public safety communications systems at the local, regional, state, and national levels; continue to promote, through policy and resources, efforts that create local, regional, statewide, and nationwide operability and interoperability; allocate additional radio spectrum for public safety activities to ensure sufficient capacity exists to meet growing voice and data communications needs; clarify the conditions and protocols under which private entities will be required to vacate radio spectrum under their control during federally-declared national emergencies; develop a clear shared definition, vision, and implementation strategy for nationwide communications interoperability.

Adopted July 17, 2012

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY RESOLUTIONS

Resolution in Support of Maintaining Funding for FEMA Grant Programs

Issue: Maintaining funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fire Act and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs.

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to fully support a fiscally reasonable approach to maintaining critical grant programs that enhance the local and thereby the national ability to respond to existing and emerging risk to public safety. While it is recognized that prior funding levels may not be sustainable, NACo urges Congress to reduce the Fire Act and SAFER grant programs by the lowest reasonable margins and to maintain these vital programs permanently.

Adopted July 17, 2012

Resolution on Managing the Federal Cost Share in Response to Disasters

Issue: Management of federal cost share in response to disasters.

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to include the following language in any revisions to the Stafford Act. "The federal cost share reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shall be the same for federal agencies under direct federal assistance (DFA) as it is as it is for applicants self-performing or contracting the work."

Adopted July 17, 2012

Resolution in Opposition to the Restructuring of Grants as Recommended in the 2013 National Preparedness Grant Vision and the 2012 Changes to the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program

Issue: Proposed changes to the FY 2012 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) scope of applicants and the proposed National Preparedness Grant process place an undue burden on county governments in achieving federal requirements for national resilience.

Adopted Policy: NACo opposes the change in the 2012 EMPG program guidance expanding eligible applicants for the grant program, and urges Congress to require the Secretary to return to the intent of the EMPG funding and ensure that the funding is passed to the counties.

NACo opposes the assignment of final authority of the proposed FY 2013 National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) block grant to the state administrator. NACo requests that Congress require the Secretary to ensure that commissions consisting of county Emergency Managers and other county Public Safety agents be established in each state to vet requests for funding and ensure that the overall needs of the local communities are met, and that the State Administrator not become the final decision-maker in this regard. Further, the NPGP must include the requirement to pass through no less than 80 percent of the funds to the counties directly.

NACo opposes the inclusion of the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding in the NPGP block grant proposal. NACo requests that Congress fully fund the UASI program and assure that no less than eighty percent of funds are passed through to the large urban areas. Further, NACo requests that Congress fully considers the risk of disaster to such areas and not limit the UASI program to the specific terrorism risk of certain large cities.
Adopted July 17, 2012

Resolution on an Arbitration Panel for FEMA Public Assistance

Issue: Permanent option for local governments to request arbitration by an independent review panel for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA).

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress and/or the appropriate federal agency to amend the Stafford Act to ensure that local governments can request the use of alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration by an independent review panel, to resolve disputes relating to FEMA eligible PA.

Adopted July 17, 2012

Resolution in Support of Revising FEMA's HMGP Program

Issue: Removal of flood damaged structures from the flood plain immediately following a federally-declared disaster to reduce the impact of future flooding.

Adopted Policy: NACo proposes changes to the Robert T. Stafford Act to allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse local governments at 100 percent of assessed value for structures that are substantially damaged due to flooding during the first ninety days of a federally declared disaster.

Adopted July 17, 2012

Resolution in Support of Strengthened FEMA Outreach and Technical Assistance for Flood Hazard Mapping

Issue: Flood hazard mapping and strengthening the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) outreach and technical assistance with counties.

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to fully support a transparent and fiscally reasonable process by which counties and residents can revise and amend FEMA's Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Additionally, NACo urges the federal government to enhance flood hazard mapping outreach and technical assistance in local communities.

Adopted July 17, 2012

Resolution on FEMA Project Worksheets

Issue: Allowing applicants and sub-applicants to draft their own Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Project Worksheets.

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress and/or the appropriate federal agency to include the following language regarding project worksheet (PW) development in any revisions to the Stafford Act: "FEMA will allow applicants and sub-applicants to write their own large and small project worksheets at their own discretion. All of the costs associated with drafting project worksheets will be covered as eligible costs under FEMA's Direct Administrative Costs (DACs)."

Adopted July 17, 2012