

Report from NEMA

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“With Every Mistake We Should Surely Be Learning”

Concerns/Considerations

- Change can be scary – but it's happening anyway – plan it or trust to luck
- As dollars decline, shared planning does mean there is less for all – but experience in HS and UASI is everyone works together for the primary objective: a prepared nation
- Trust comes hard: but Americans should trust themselves to reach consensus

Advantages

- Everyone now eligible remains eligible
- Whole community must plan together
- SAA has increased visibility over activities to protect the state
- Planning together assures greater awareness/respect for challenges facing the entire community
- Congress/nation can track preparedness efforts and results

Investment Grants (continued)

- Multi disciplinary review by local and state teams within the jurisdictions- national peer reviews would be eliminated in favor of stakeholder decision making since that is a better site for determining if the project is responsive to the THIRA
- Tier 1 UASI still funded directly
- All other urban areas always “in the game”

Investment Grants

- Funding derived from single allocation to state
- Project based funding allows for “built-in” measures to be developed as the project is conceived
- SAA/local governments and consortia of jurisdictions would apply for funding based on their completed THIRA and a comprehensive preparedness strategy

Improved Planning and Assessments

- Start with mission, plan assessment
- Determine gaps in preparedness to be addressed
- Develop project to meet mission, building in performance measures
- Develop Project Cost
- Reminiscent of LEAA Program style of 70's

Proposal Component – Skilled Cadre

- A cadre based allocation: recognizes need for staff to carry out planning assessments, grant administration and other HS and EM functions
- EMPG is a model that could improve the HS grant system
- Breaks away anti staff bias that permeated early days of DHS- it takes people to do work and the work is not going away

Proposal Is Not...

- A legislative document
- A plea for a specific dollar allocation
- Presented as the sole answer to the concerns of Congress or stakeholders (amazingly, no other proposal surfaced except for President's Budget)
- State centric – clear references to local collaboration

Principles of Grant Reform

- Support PPD- 8 Mission Areas
- EMPG is a sustainable model that provides local and state flexibility in decision making
- HS Grant structure needs to be agile, adaptive and accountable
- Nation deserves safety and security, but also solvency

Not in a Vacuum

- As report was drafted, outreach to IAEM leadership and staff of other stakeholders throughout the remainder of the year
- Limited response from most stakeholders
- Well established that we would deliver a report to Congress with our observations for improvement by end of calendar 2011
- Early release provided to stakeholder association personnel 4-6 weeks ahead of release to Congress

Steps to Grant Reform

- First step to establish effectiveness of programs- building blocks to future reform efforts-
- July, 2011 report illustrated effectiveness of HS efforts over the life of the program
- Positive reaction to the first phase of the report – documented some of the things that have gone well

Homeland Security Grant Reform

- Similar questions regarding effectiveness of HS investment-
- As Congress reduced funding in these areas, pointed questions re effectiveness and the need for grant reform raised
- NEMA, working with GHSAC, launched an initiative to propose new funding model

Communications –With Congress (cont)

- March 5 , 2012: NEMA Updates EMPG document to Congress
- Key performance features in 2011: in a year regarded widely as a year of many Presidential declarations (98) EMPG allowed local and state governments to handle more than 57000 events w/o the use of federal resources
- Return On Investment is substantial if even 1% of those incidents had escalated w/o local and state attention

Communications – With Congress

- March 2011- sent Congress joint paper by IAEM/NEMA entitled “Emergency Management Performance Grants – Providing Returns on a Nation’s Investment”
- Reception to report very promising
- Strong recommendations from Congressional staff to continue with this level of reporting
- Results also noticeable in funding allocations to EMPG

Conclusion

- We need dialogue, not diatribe
- All ideas are welcome
- Nearly a decade of experience should allow us to reconstitute our system to assure Congress and the nation that their investment in our collective efforts is justified
- We have successful building blocks in these HS programs