



There is so much happening in Washington right now that it is hard to keep up, but here are a few key things you should know as we close out the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and start preparing for the upcoming presidential transition.

### **Policy Recommendations for President-Elect Trump and Congress**

After every presidential election, IAEM drafts and submits policy recommendations to the incoming president and their transition team for consideration as they assemble the next administration. The transition document prepared for President-Elect Trump focuses on several issues, including the need for a quick nomination and confirmation of the next FEMA Administrator and some recommendations to reduce bureaucratic complexity and simplify the disaster assistance process. [Here is a link](#) to the document. Feel free to share it with anyone in your network with an “in” to President Trump and his advisors.

### **Senate Version of the DHS Funding Bill**

In November, the Senate Appropriations Committee finally released [its version](#) of the bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security for FY25.

Key highlights:

- \$66.16 billion in discretionary funding for the entire Department of Homeland Security is \$3.64 billion above FY24 enacted levels.
- \$27.9 billion for FEMA, \$94 million above the budget request, and \$2.4 million above FY24 enacted levels.
- **\$331 for grants, which would restore grant funding to FY23 levels.**
- \$2.9 billion for CISA, \$31 million below FY24 enacted levels.
- \$22.392 billion for the DRF, which is the same amount as requested (this amount likely takes into account the inclusion of an upcoming disaster supplemental).

[Here is a link](#) to the DHS appropriations bill. The section related to grant funding starts on page 37, line 16. EMPG funding is on page 39, line 23

[Here is a link](#) to the Committee Report Language.

There will undoubtedly be many twists and turns as Congress works towards a budget agreement for FY25, but the Senate recommendation to restore grants to FY23 levels is excellent news. The current CR is scheduled to expire on December 20, so Congress must reach an agreement before the deadline or pass another CR, hopefully in conjunction with a disaster supplemental.

### **Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act**

In 2018, IAEM and NEMA prepared a [white paper](#) entitled *Rollover of Disaster Management Costs: Increasing Capability and Responsibility in Managing Disaster Declarations.* The proposal would allow grantees to utilize management costs across all open disasters to ensure the building of recovery and mitigation capacity, incentivize disaster close-out, and drive down the costs of disasters.

After years of pushing this rock up the hill, we are very close to getting this idea enacted into law. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved their version of the bill last summer ([S.3071](#)), and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee favorably reported their version of the bill ([HR 7671](#)) to the House floor in September. The House and Senate versions of the bill are eligible for fast-track consideration before Congress adjourns at the end of the year.

IAEM and 13 other organizations recently [signed a letter](#) to House and Senate leadership urging action on this bill before Congress adjourns. Please use this letter to contact your Senators and Members of Congress.

### **Disaster Assistance Simplification Act**

IAEM and 17 other stakeholders recently [sent a letter to House leadership](#) urging passage of the Disaster Assistance Simplification Act before Congress adjourns at the end of the year. This bill requires FEMA to consolidate federal grant applications for disaster relief for disaster survivors into one centralized and universal application, relieving survivors from the burden of multiple lengthy and strenuous application processes.

Please use this letter to contact your Member of Congress.

### **Prospects for a Disaster Supplemental**

As has been widely reported, the Disaster Relief Fund is nearly depleted. Congress will need to pass a disaster supplemental to pay for the ongoing response and recovery efforts related to Milton and Helene (as well as all other ongoing disaster recoveries). The path forward for the disaster supplemental is unclear. Still, it is rumored that Congress will couple a disaster supplemental with a continuing resolution to fund the government until sometime in March.

IAEM, NEMA, and BCEM recently [sent a letter](#) to Congress outlining our priorities for the disaster supplemental.