



June 2024

It has been an incredibly busy month for the IAEM-USA Government Affairs Committee (GAC). Please reach out to Committee Chair [Mary Jo Flynn-Nevins, CEM](#), or Government Affairs Director [Thad Huguley](#) with questions, to join the committee or assist with any of the issues.

## FY25 Appropriations Update

In early May, the House of Representatives announced an aggressive schedule to markup and send to the House floor - by the end of June - all 12 bills that funded the federal government. Proactively, on May 28, IAEM, along with NEMA and BCEM, [sent a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees](#) outlining our shared appropriation priorities for the FY25 cycle, including grants, education & training, EMAC, EMAP/CEM and the National Weather Service. The letter explained the negative ramifications of another year of cuts like those enacted in FY24 and urged Congress to restore funding to "at least FY23 funding levels." Following the letter, the GAC initiated a targeted outreach campaign to members of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure they were aware of our priorities as they determined the budget they would recommend to the full committee and the House of Representatives. When the Subcommittee released its draft, the news was good with EMPG, SHSP, UASI and NSGP back up to the FY23 enacted levels as requested.

- EMPG - \$355,000,000 (up from \$319,500,000).
- SHSP - \$520,000,000 (up from \$468,000,000).
- UASI - \$615,000,000 (up from \$553,500,000).
- NSGP - \$305,000,000 (up from \$274,500,000).

[Here is a link](#) to the committee report. The numbers for the grant programs can be found on page 69.

On June 12, the House Appropriations Committee favorably reported the bill to the House floor. Some of the key highlights from the bill are:

- The Committee recommends \$28.4 billion for FEMA, which is \$2.8 billion above the FY24 enacted level and \$547.5 million above the President's Budget Request.
- The bill restores \$331 million in cuts made to grants in FY24, returning to the FY23 enacted levels.
- The bill directs FEMA to conduct an analysis of DHS grant programs and assess and provide recommendations on the appropriateness of adjustments to existing cost-sharing splits, or in the case that none exist, new cost-sharing splits that improve the effectiveness and resilience of the programs in American communities.
- The DRF is funded at \$22.741 billion, which is \$349 million above the President's request.

The bill awaits a vote on the House floor, likely sometime in July. Assuming everything goes smoothly on the House floor, we will have overcome the first major hurdle of the FY25 appropriations cycle. IAEM and the emergency management community can then focus on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## Meeting with Administrator Criswell and FEMA's Senior Leadership

On June 2, IAEM's leadership team, NEMA and BCEM met with Administrator Criswell and FEMA's senior-level management team for our quarterly "Big Three" meeting. As a follow-up to a letter that IAEM/NEMA/BCEM sent to DHS Secretary Mayorkas, IAEM President Justin Kates pressed Administrator Criswell to utilize all statutory authorities and flexibilities to address the \$179.5 million shortfall in FY24 grant funding. In addition, Kates urged FEMA to advocate for the inclusion of additional funding for preparedness grants if/when the Administrator submits a supplemental request to Congress this summer to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund. Administrator Criswell clarified that neither option is very likely and urged all three organizations to "focus on FY25."

## Introduction of the Modernizing Wildlife Safety and Prevention Act

Representatives Josh Harder (CA-9-D), Scott Franklin (FL-18-R) and Joe Neguse (CO-2-D) recently introduced the Modernizing Wildfire Safety and Prevention Act, the culmination of hard work from the bill sponsors and a diverse group of stakeholders.

- The full bill text is available [here](#).
- A one-pager outlining the highlights of the bill is available [here](#).
- Rep. Harder's press release (which includes a quote from GAC Chair Mary Jo Flynn Nevins) is available [here](#).

The bill would codify some recommendations in the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission's recent report if enacted. In addition, the sponsors, at the request of IAEM, NEMA, and BuildStrong, agreed to roll the Wildfire Response Improvement Act ([HR 7070](#)) and the Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act ([HR 7671](#)) into the bill. IAEM had previously endorsed both bills. The language from HR 7070 can be found on page 25, line 7 and the language from HR 7671 can be found on page 20, line 1. Drafting legislation is rarely easy, but Reps. Harder, Franklin and Neguse went above and beyond to be responsive to all interested stakeholders in drafting this comprehensive bill.

## Key Communications Over the Past Month

- Letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding funding priorities for the FY 2025 Budget.
- Letter to Congress asking the members to use the supplemental process to restore the funding for grants cut in the FY24 appropriations cycle.
- Letter to Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas regarding cuts to the grant programs in the FY24 budget agreement.
- Letter to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure leadership and the leadership of its Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management requesting that H.R. 7671, the Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act, be added to the upcoming June or July mark-up.

## Upcoming Webinar

- WHEN: Wednesday, July 17, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. EDT
- WHAT: IAEM Lunch and Learn - Government Affairs and Advocacy Basics

Register now for an overview of the IAEM Government Affairs Committee's work and how to help support their efforts.

The basic topics will be:

- The difference between advocacy and lobbying.
- The issues we are focused on now and annually.
- How you can get involved.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

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