



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

FEMA State and Local Programs

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) **State and Local Programs** within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 reduces overall funding by \$865,700,000.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **FEMA State and Local Program** funding determinations in H.R. 1:

- Important FEMA State and Local programs include Citizen Corps (reduced by \$3M), Regional Catastrophic Preparedness grants (zeroed out), Public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance grants (reduced by \$200M), Port Security grants (reduced by \$200M), Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance grants (reduced by \$7M), Buffer Zone Protection Program (zeroed out), Urban Area Security Initiative (reduced by \$87M), Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (zeroed out), Emergency Operations Centers (zeroed out), Firefighter Assistance Grants (reduced by \$510M), Emergency Management Performance Grants (reduced by \$40M), and National Predisaster Mitigation grants (reduced by \$35M).
- FEMA's State and Local grant programs assist in protecting homeland security and improving emergency preparedness to ensure safe, healthy communities.
- Many of the grant programs invest in creating multiple public-private partnerships, producing informal coalitions with greater resource capabilities.
- Lack of funding in various state and local programs could yield inconsistencies in preparedness and ultimately lead to greater vulnerabilities and less effective homeland security policy.



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, maintaining adequate funding for **FEMA State and Local Grant Programs** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in **FEMA's State and Local grant programs** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure safety, security and protection, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.