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FEMA Preparedness Grants

A guide to getting started



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FROM THE EDITOR

Grants for projects before and after emergencies or disasters have changed significantly since the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was established in 2002. Although the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was created much earlier, in early 2003, the agency became part of the Department of Homeland Security and effectively acts as DHS's managing arm of the preparedness grants program. This suite of discretionary funding programs aims to improve the nation's ability to handle various threats like terrorism, natural disasters, and emergencies by allocating resources across state, local, tribal and territorial levels to strengthen skills in emergency response, protecting infrastructure, cybersecurity and intelligence sharing.

Over the years, the scope and focus of preparedness grants have expanded to address emerging threats and vulnerabilities. For example, grant programs have increasingly emphasized cybersecurity preparedness, critical infrastructure protection and efforts to counter violent extremism. Additionally, grant requirements have evolved to encourage greater collaboration and coordination among federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners.

The distribution and allocation of the preparedness grants have been subject to periodic reviews and revisions to ensure that resources are effectively utilized and aligned with the nation's evolving security priorities. Various factors, including changes in threat assessments, budgetary constraints and lessons learned from past incidents, have influenced the design and implementation of these grant programs. Ultimately, these grant opportunities work to ensure that the nation is prepared to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

This eBook will provide information, guidance and practical strategies for creating a competitive FEMA grant application. We hope the information in this guide will help you submit a successful application, enabling your agency to meet its funding requirements and effectively tackle future challenges.

Lexipol Grants Team

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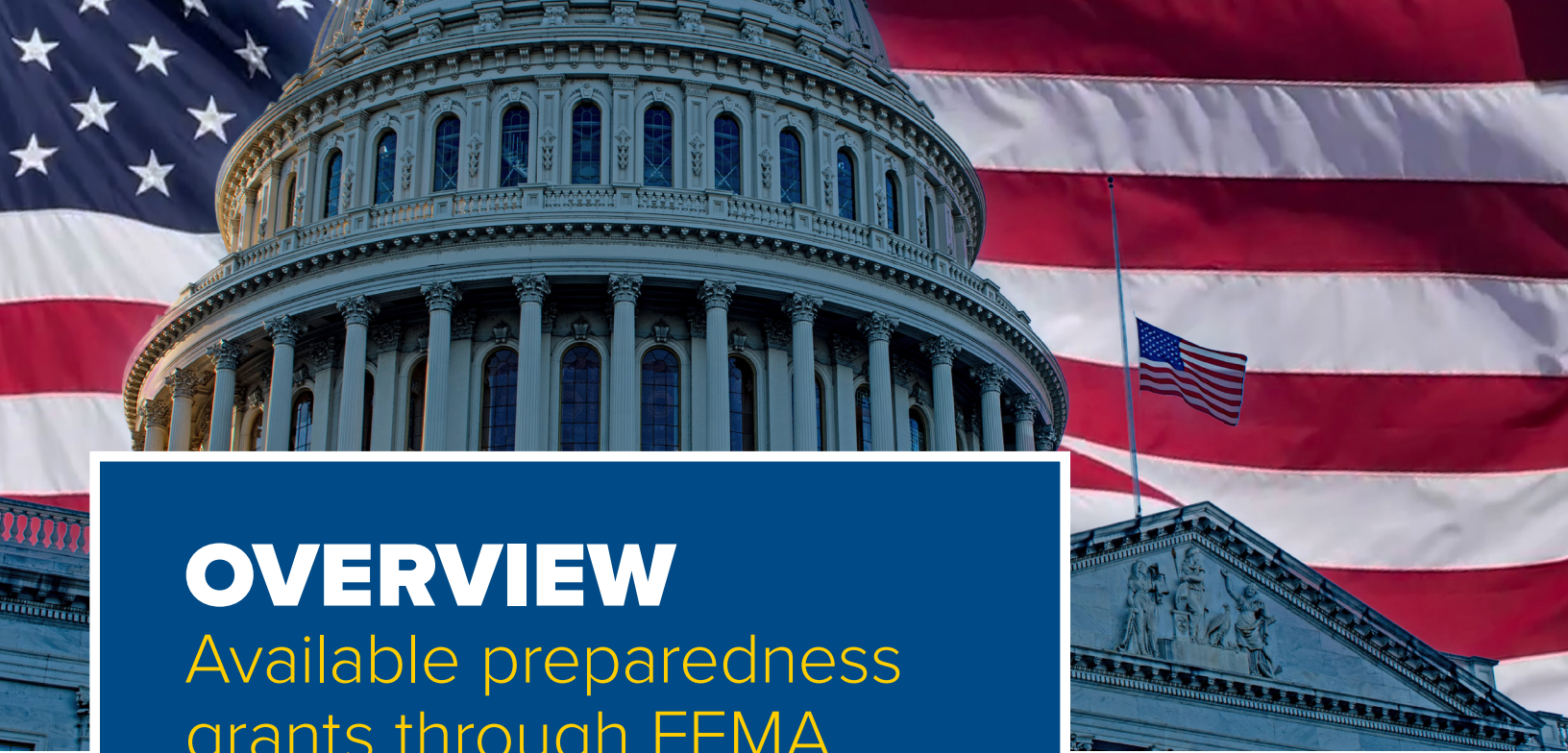
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OVERVIEW

Available preparedness grants through FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency began in 1979, and since its establishment, dozens of grant programs have been created to assist people at the local, state, tribal, and territorial levels. Of the many grant programs that FEMA offers, the preparedness grants are often sought after to protect from acts of terrorism and get ready for disasters and emergencies before they occur. Listed below are a few grant opportunities with anticipated funding announcements pending for 2024.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG):

This grant program is available to local, state, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies. It aims to create a safer and more resistant nation by implementing the National Preparedness System. Specifically, funding supports prevention, protection, response and recovery, and mitigation.¹ According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$334 million has been appropriated for this grant program for the fiscal year 2024.² It is anticipated that a notice of funding opportunity will be released in or around February 2024 (based on the 2023 release date information).

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP):

The grant program is available to nonprofit organizations, with some funding provided at the state level and the rest provided at the federal level. This program provides funding to support increased security improvements for nonprofit organizations that could be at elevated risk for a terrorist attack.³ According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$287 million in funding was allocated for fiscal year 2024.² It is anticipated that a notice of funding opportunity will be released in or around February 2024 (based on the 2023 release date information).

Port Security Grant Program (PSGP):

This grant program is available to local, state, and private-sector partners within the United States. The purpose is to promote safer and more secure ports that are protected from security and terrorism threats.⁴ According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$94 million in funding was allocated for fiscal year 2024.² It is anticipated that a notice of funding opportunity will be released in or around February 2024 (based on the 2023 release date information).

Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP):

This grant program aims to enhance the security



of the nation's public transportation systems, including intracity buses, ferries, and passenger rail. It provides funding to owners and operators of public transit systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and other security threats. According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$99 million was allocated for fiscal year 2024. The notice of funding opportunity is anticipated to be released in early 2024.

Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program

(THSGP): This grant program supports various preparedness initiatives to strengthen tribal nations' ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks and other hazards. According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$14.1 million was allocated for fiscal year 2024. The notice of funding opportunity is anticipated to be released in early 2024.

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP):

This grant program aims to enhance the security of the nation's surface transportation systems. It provides funding to support security measures for intercity bus transportation, including activities such as security training, facility security upgrades, and the procurement of security equipment. The IBSGP plays a crucial role in safeguarding this vital mode of transportation and ensuring the safety and confidence of passengers and operators.

According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$1.88 million was allocated in fiscal year 2024. The notice of funding opportunity is anticipated to be released in early 2024.

Homeland Security Grant – Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI):

This grant is part of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). As part of the HSPG, this risk-based grant is made available for regional efforts. This grant is specifically designated to improve the level of preparedness of regions that are considered to be of higher threat and/or highly populated.⁵

According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$578 million in funding was allocated for fiscal year 2024.² It is anticipated that a notice of funding opportunity will be released in or around February 2024 (based on the 2023 release date information).

Homeland Security Grant – Operation Stonegarden (OPSG):

This grant is part of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). As part of the HSPG, this risk-based grant is made available for local, state, tribal, and territorial efforts. The purpose of this grant is to fund law enforcement agencies to improve security along the land and water borders of the United States.⁵

According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, \$84.6 million was allocated for Operation Stonegarden in the fiscal year 2024.² It is anticipated that a notice of funding opportunity

will be released in or around February 2024 (based on the 2023 release date information).

Homeland Security Grant – State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): This grant is part of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). As part of the HSPG, this risk-based grant is made available for state efforts. The purpose of this grant is designed to be used to fund State Homeland Security Strategies.⁵ According to the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations, there is \$390.3 million allocated for fiscal year 2024 for the State Homeland Security Program.² It is anticipated that a notice of funding opportunity will be released in or around February 2024 (based on the 2023 release date information).

Preparation Efforts

To prepare for the upcoming notices of funding opportunities, here are seven tips.

1. Ensure your entity's [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration is up to date and active.
 - a. Once logged into SAM.gov, verify the entity's unique entity identifier (UEI) is valid.
2. Review the Preparedness Grant Manual available on [FEMA's website](https://www.fema.gov).
3. Ensure that your entity's [Non-Disaster Grant Portal](https://www.fema.gov) account is active.
4. Ensure your entity has a [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) account.
5. Review the previous year's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to better understand what

the new fiscal year's NOFO will look like. Pay special attention to and review any narrative requirements within the NOFO.

6. Subscribe to FEMA's [email updates](https://www.fema.gov) for news information regarding grants.
7. Follow [FEMAGrants](https://www.fema.gov) on X (previously Twitter) for ongoing grant announcements.

FEMA offers a plethora of grant opportunities, of which just a few were discussed in this article. For further information on all of FEMA's grant opportunities, news, and webinars, visit the [Grant section](https://www.fema.gov) on FEMA's website.

References

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FEMA preparedness grants **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In the ever-evolving landscape of emergency services, securing adequate funding is crucial for maintaining preparedness and resilience. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers essential financial support through various grant programs tailored to specific needs and jurisdictions. This article delves into the intricacies of FEMA preparedness grants, providing insights into where and how applicants can access these funds.

Directly applying to FEMA vs. pass-through entities

FEMA's authority includes the delivery of numerous disaster and non-disaster financial assistance programs to support state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments and nongovernmental partners in the shared mission of emergency management and national preparedness. As part of this, FEMA coordinates available federal resources to supplement SLTT capabilities.

Depending on the grant program, the application process takes one of two paths:

1. State pass-through application process

Several of FEMA's discretionary grant programs, particularly the most popular, operate via a pass-through process, meaning eligible applicants apply through their state rather than directly through FEMA. The distinction is a crucial part of FEMA's overall strategy to ensure funds are effectively distributed at various levels of government in alignment with local needs.

The state's managing entity is referred to as the state administrative agency (SAA) and is often a homeland security or emergency management division responsible for the state's overall preparedness strategy. SAAs identify capability targets and operational gaps through the THIRA process (threat, hazard identification, risk assessment) and assess those in a state preparedness report (SPR) that is shared with FEMA. When FEMA opts for a pass-through structure, it entrusts SAAs with the responsibility of managing the grants, aligning them with state priorities, and overseeing their distribution to local entities.

The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) suite includes the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and Operation Stonegarden (OPSG). Those programs in addition to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) all operate as pass-through programs, and therefore local-level applications are submitted by eligible entities through their SAAs. SAAs are the only entities eligible to apply directly to FEMA.

Additionally, SAAs are one of two entities eligible to apply directly to FEMA for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). A state's emergency management agency (if not the SAA) also has direct applicant authority. No other applicants are eligible to apply directly to FEMA. Therefore, local emergency management agencies and any additional eligible applicants (as determined by the SAA in accordance with federal guidelines) can then apply to their respective states for subgrants. Interested organizations should liaise with their state's SAA for information on the EMPG subgrant application process, eligibility, and specific requirements, as it is unique in comparison to the Homeland Security suite programs.

Each state will have its own pass-through application process, which may include a specific grant portal or simply an electronic submission via email. Since each state has additional discretion as to the application process, it is important to identify your SAA early, sign up for available email distribution lists and any informational sessions or webinars, and review state guidance from the last cycle (if a grant cycle is not currently open) as well as the state's most recent THIRA/SPR. It is also highly recommended to connect with your SAA in advance of the application cycle to discuss your specific project. Local entities can [find their SAA here](#).

2. Direct application to FEMA

For the discretionary grant programs that allow local applicants to directly apply to FEMA, removing the SAA component, the application is a two-step process. FEMA participates in the federal government's [Grants.gov](#) initiative. Grants.gov is the federal government's single site to locate and apply for federal grants, and most federal agencies utilize it with their application process.





In Grants.gov, applicants will need to submit two forms: the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) and the Certification Regarding Lobbying. The SF-424 requires information pertaining to the legal applicant, title of applicant’s project, and estimated funding needs, along with certification by the applicant’s authorized organization representative (AOR.) The Certification Regarding Lobbying requires the applicant’s organization’s name and the AOR’s information and signature.

Upon submission of the initial application in Grants.gov, FEMA will notify the applicant via email that they can proceed with submitting the full, completed application package in FEMA’s own portal, [FEMA GO](#). FEMA GO will be where applicants submit all the grant application components outlined within a particular Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to comply with the program’s requirements. Once the full application package is submitted in FEMA GO, FEMA will generate an electronic submission date/time stamp in the system indicating it has successfully received the package.

FEMA’s preparedness grant programs that use direct application include the Port Security Program, Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP), Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), and Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP). Note that several of these programs have eligibility restrictions; they are not simply open to any local applicant. For example, to apply for the PSGP, an entity must be subject to an Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP) in addition to being either a port authority, facility operator, or state/local/territorial government agency. Simply being a local government agency does not mean your organization is subject to an AMSP, so be sure to review the grant program’s eligibility guidelines before applying.

Special considerations

FEMA’s 2022–2026 Strategic Plan sets out goals to address a wide range and complexity of emergency preparedness and homeland security challenges, including those pertaining to the above grant programs. Interested applicants should review the plan and consider how their organization can best support its goals and objectives with their request for discretionary

funding. The plan can also assist applicants with readiness in advance of open grant cycles.

As mentioned earlier, it is also imperative that interested applicants review the individual grant program's eligibility guidelines and any additional restrictions/interpretations imposed by their SAA, if the program is not a direct-apply. As eligibility is the initial qualifying step in determining the feasibility of applying for competitive grant funding, this should be an interested applicant's first order of business.

A successful grant application will leverage FEMA's strategic framework to promote and sustain a ready and prepared community. It is pivotal to include wide-ranging and long-term goals to address key challenges facing your locality or organization, as well as the flexibility to respond to a changing landscape of increasing complexity. The success of an application relies significantly on an applicant's ability to definitively portray how the project and requested funds will contribute to preparedness enhancements and resiliency. Areas to consider for a well-rounded, comprehensive application include:

- Clearly articulating existing vulnerabilities.
- Outlining a proactive and collaborative approach to the identified problem(s).
- Demonstrating collaboration with local stakeholders, federal partners, etc.
- Emphasizing how the project will strengthen regional response capabilities/strategies, including as it relates to local, regional, and national economic and security implications.

- Illustrating your understanding of FEMA's Strategic Plan within the context of your proposed project and any other relevant state, regional, or local plans (e.g., local emergency management plans). Correlate those to your project's goals and objectives.
- Detailing project costs, specifically tying each requested budget line item to your project's allocation of resources.

Conclusion

In conclusion, successfully navigating FEMA preparedness grants demands a comprehensive strategy that encompasses strategic planning, community engagement, and strict adherence to program guidelines. The nuanced application process involves either a direct submission to FEMA or an application route through state administrative agencies (SAAs), with the choice determined by the grant program. Regardless of the specific grant, applicants need a deep understanding of their state's application process, emphasizing collaboration and aligning proposals with state priorities.

As organizations embark on this process, aligning projects with program goals, fostering partnerships, and showcasing a commitment to long-term community resilience enhance the likelihood of securing vital funding. These grants not only provide financial support but also empower jurisdictions to build safer and more resilient communities for the future.





PREPARE TO APPLY

By Alyson Trowbridge

Preparing a federal grant application, whether as a direct-apply or a state sub-grantee, can be time consuming. It is important for prospective applicants to get started early, especially with pre-submission requirements that can be completed outside of an open grant cycle. Doing so in advance will position your agency for application readiness and ensure adequate time prior to the program's deadline.

All applicants seeking any type of federal funding, not just through FEMA's Preparedness Grants, are required to register in the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM). This registration is a multi-step process and can take four or more weeks to complete, so applicants are encouraged to register early. Failure to register before a grant program's deadline will disqualify an application from funding consideration. It is also imperative to maintain an active SAM registration throughout the application cycle – from time of submission, during the review period and at the time FEMA is ready to make a federal award. SAM registrations are valid for 12 months and then must be renewed, so keep that in mind both as a new registrant or if your agency has registered in the past.

Organizations must also have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is issued through the SAM.gov registration process, and an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If your organization has ever received federal funding or conducted business with the federal government before, including being a recipient of ARPA funds, these will already be established. **In early 2022, the UEI replaced what was formerly known as a DUNS number.*

If just embarking on your federal grant application journey, below are helpful steps to initiate these processes.

- **Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number.** The UEI is a unique nine-digit identifier issued by SAM to all entities doing business with the federal government. See below for SAM.gov registration steps.
- **Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN).** The EIN can be obtained from the IRS by visiting [Apply for an Employer Identification Number \(EIN\) Online](#).
- **Create a login.gov account.** [Login.gov](#) is the federal government's secure sign in service used by participating agencies for a variety of

federal uses, including federal job applications, global entry, small business loans and grant administration. Be sure that if you have a personal Login.gov account that you create a separate, organizational applicant Login.gov account that can be tied to your agency or organization.

All applicants must have a Login.gov account to register or update their SAM.gov registration. Applicants can [Create an Account here](#).

- **Register with SAM.gov.** All organizations applying for federal grant funds must register with SAM.gov. For detailed instructions regarding SAM registration, refer to [SAM.gov | Entity Registrations](#). The site also includes an option to check an entity's SAM.gov status in the event you are unsure whether your organization has previously registered. Be sure to verify an existing account is active.

For questions regarding SAM registration, contact the [Federal Support Desk](#) at 866-606-82200; they also offer a live chat feature.

- **Create a Grants.gov Account.** Once SAM.gov registration is complete, the next step in the registration process is to create a Grants.gov account (this can only be completed once an organization has obtained a UEI number.) For detailed instructions regarding registering a Grants.gov account, refer to [grants.gov/register](#).

After registering with Grants.gov and linking the account (via UEI) to an Organization Applicant Profile, the request for a Grants.gov role will be sent to the organization's E-Business POC (EBiz POC). The EBiz POC is responsible for the administration and management of grant activities for their organization and is designated through the UEI/SAM.gov registration process; as such, the EBiz POC is the only authorized agent to assign administrative roles for the organization in Grants.gov. Typically, the EBiz POC is an organization's Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller or Authorizing Official. In order to submit a Grants.gov application, the Grants.gov profile must

be assigned an Authorized Organization Role (AOR), indicating they are authorized to make legally binding commitments on behalf of their organization.

Once all registration and account creation steps have taken place, you are ready to submit your initial application to DHS/FEMA in Grants.gov.

The following information applies to direct-apply programs within FEMA's Preparedness Grants suite, which includes Tribal Homeland Security (THSGP), Port Security (PSGP), Transit Security (TSGP), and the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP), meaning eligible local applicants apply directly to FEMA.

Submitting an Initial Application to DHS/FEMA in Grants.gov

Grants.gov refers to an initial application as a 'workspace.' This is a shared space where various members of an organization's grant's team can access and edit web forms. FEMA recommends submitting the initial application to Grants.gov at minimum three days before the application deadline. The initial application includes the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) and Grants.gov Lobbying Form (Certification Regarding Lobbying.)

Once the initial application is submitted, Grants.gov will assign a tracking number to the application, which will also be included on the post-submission confirmation page.

Submitting a Final Application to DHS/FEMA in FEMA GO

Once Grants.gov has confirmed and processed the initial application, applicants will be notified to proceed with their full application package in FEMA's Grants Outcomes portal, FEMA GO. Applicants can register with FEMA GO in advance and are encouraged to do so. Applicants needing assistance with the registration process can refer to step-by-step directions and training modules at [FEMA GO](#).

In FEMA GO, applicants will be required to submit the Standard Forms (SFs) as well as any



additional requirements of the particular grant program, such as project narratives and budget details, workplans, and attachments. The required Standard Forms include the SF-424A: Budget Information; SF-424B: Standard Assurances; SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; and, if applicable, the Indirect Cost Agreement or Proposal. Like with Grants.gov, only an AOR can submit the full grant application package. Once submitted, the AOR will receive a system-generated email confirmation of receipt. All grant program applications are due in [FEMA GO](#) by 5 PM Eastern Time on the date of the particular program's application deadline.

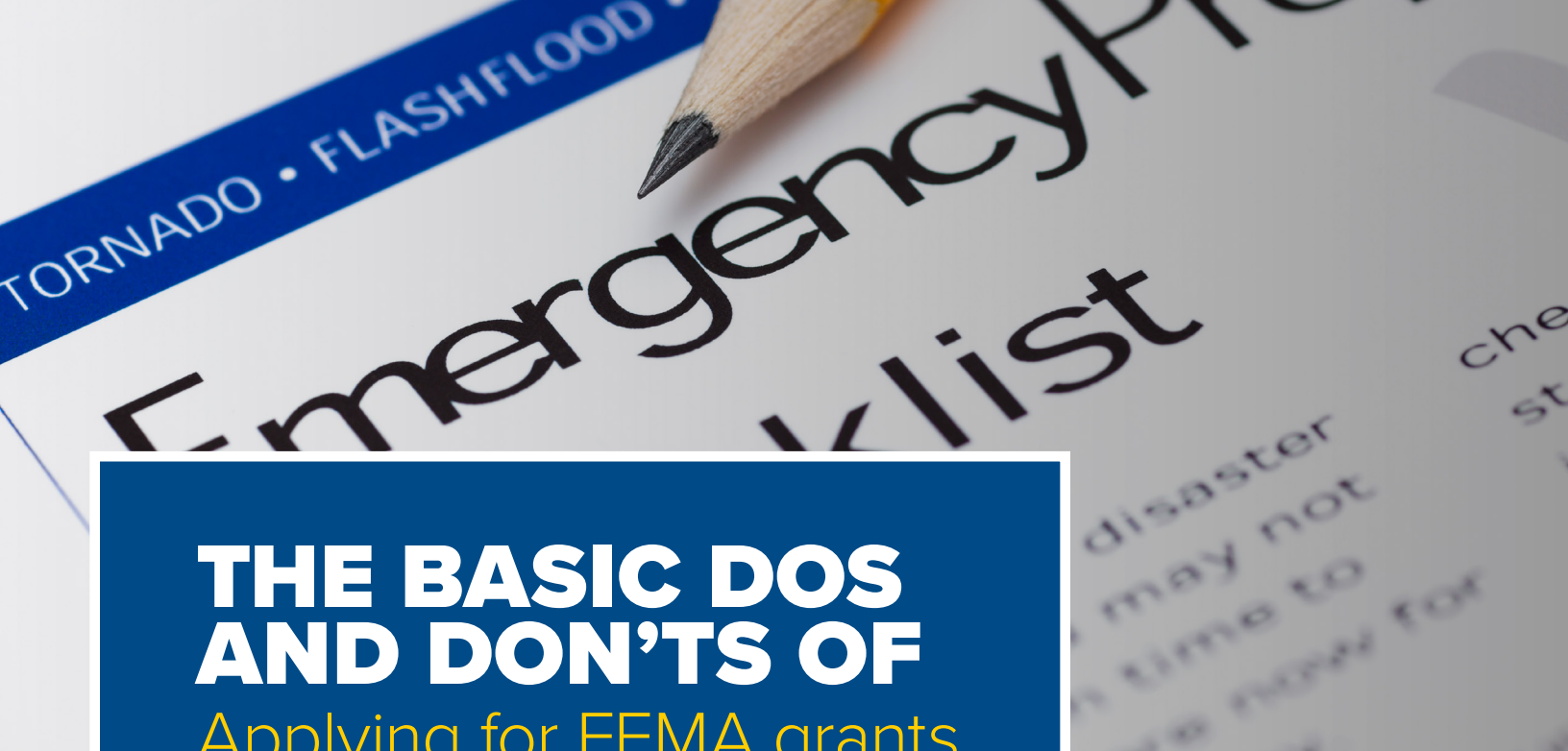
Submitting a Pass-through Grant Application via SAA

For FEMA Preparedness Grants that leverage the pass-through application process via SAAs, applicants will need to determine their state's individual process. These FEMA grants include the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) suite – State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)] – as well as the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

A majority of states have implemented their own application portals that are used for pass-through programs. Local entities can [find their State Administrative Agency \(SAA\) here](#) and determine which state agency or division is managing the grant program of interest. Each state imposes their own deadlines for this process, so ensure you are coordinating with your SAA so as not to miss out!

Conclusion

Regardless of the application pathway, applicants should initiate their strategic planning process early on. A strong application includes a qualitative narrative summary of the proposed project, anticipated outcomes and methodology for achieving those outcomes, and a well-defined budget justification all supporting the application's ability to prevent, protect, mitigate and respond. Leveraging these tools and tailoring your application to your jurisdiction and/or agency's unique challenges will provide a strong foundation for a successful grant application and a valued local partnership to FEMA in pursuit of the shared mission of whole community preparedness and a more resilient nation.



THE BASIC DOS AND DON'TS OF

Applying for FEMA grants

Securing FEMA preparedness grants is critical for organizations and communities seeking to fortify their resilience in the face of disasters. The competitive landscape of grant applications necessitates a strategic and well-informed approach. In this guide, we will delve into FEMA grant applications' crucial dos and don'ts, exploring common mistakes to avoid and providing practical insights to enhance your likelihood of success substantially.

Understanding grant eligibility criteria

Before embarking on this application journey, it is vital to have a solid understanding of FEMA's eligibility criteria. Successful applicants align their proposals with FEMA's priorities, ensuring their projects fall squarely within the agency's focus on disaster preparedness and response.

“Dos” for successful applications

Thorough project planning

Initiate the grant application process with meticulous project planning. Clearly define your goals, objectives and expected outcomes. A

well-thought-out plan enhances the quality of your proposal and demonstrates your commitment to practical project implementation. You should also break the project into manageable phases, outlining the specific activities, timelines and milestones. This can help with time management as the deadline approaches.

Collaboration with stakeholders

Engage with relevant stakeholders from the outset. Collaboration with local and state agencies, community organizations and other partners will strengthen your application and build a foundation for successful project execution. Clearly articulate how these collaborations will contribute to your preparedness initiatives' overall success and sustainability.

Data and evidence

A compelling proposal hinges on the foundation of robust data and evidence. By supporting your application with concrete information, you not only enhance its credibility but also provide a clear rationale for the necessity of your project. Utilizing statistics, case studies and other supporting

materials adds depth and authority to your narrative and offers evaluators a comprehensive understanding of the contextual landscape. Incorporating feedback from the community and stakeholders amplifies the evidentiary strength of your proposal, emphasizing that your project is well-conceived and responsive to the genuine needs and concerns of those it aims to benefit.

Step-by-step guidance

Confidently maneuver through the FEMA grant application process by following a comprehensive step-by-step guide. Initiate the process by registering with the System for Award Management (SAM) and acquaint yourself with the FEMA grants portal. This process must start early, as working with SAM can be very time-consuming. Thoroughly submit all necessary documentation following FEMA's specified guidelines, ensuring accuracy and timeliness in each step.

Develop a realistic budget

Craft a realistic and comprehensive budget that adheres to FEMA's cost-share requirements. Clearly outline how grant funds will be utilized, demonstrating financial responsibility and accountability. Break down the budget into specific categories, such as personnel, equipment, training and outreach, providing a transparent overview of your project's financial needs.

Build strong partnerships

Emphasize the importance of collaboration throughout your proposal. Strong partnerships not only enhance the competitiveness of your application but also contribute to the overall success of your preparedness initiatives. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each partner, showcasing a coordinated and unified approach to disaster preparedness. These partnerships will benefit your organization in ways beyond those outlined in your grant application.

Effective communication

After submitting your application, maintain open lines of communication with FEMA program officers. Be prepared to address any follow-up

inquiries promptly and transparently. Proactively provide additional information if requested and showcase your organization's commitment to the proposed project's success.

Continuous improvement

Consider the grant application process as a learning opportunity. After submitting your proposal, conduct a comprehensive review of the process. Identify areas of strength and areas that could be improved. Use this feedback to refine your approach for future grant applications, ensuring a continuous improvement cycle. Regardless of a positive or negative outcome, there is always something you can learn for future applications.

“Don'ts” for successful applications

Incomplete or inaccurate information

One of the most common pitfalls is providing incomplete or inaccurate information. Thoroughly review your application to ensure all sections are filled out correctly and information is current. Cross-reference your proposal with FEMA's guidelines to ensure compliance with their requirements. If the reviewer does not possess the whole picture, they may not fully comprehend your request and will likely give it a poor score.

Lack of community involvement

FEMA places a high value on community involvement. Avoid the mistake of presenting a top-down approach in your proposal. Engage with residents, community leaders and other stakeholders to gather input and ensure your project aligns with the genuine needs and priorities of the community.

Failure to align with FEMA priorities

Another common mistake is submitting a proposal that aligns differently with FEMA's priorities. Tailor your application to address the specific areas of focus outlined by the agency. Clearly articulate how your project contributes to FEMA's overarching goals and objectives.

Ignoring guidelines

A critical error applicants must avoid is neglecting or underestimating the importance of FEMA's guidelines. Overlooking the specified format, documentation prerequisites or submission deadlines can lead to automatic disqualification of your application. It is imperative to meticulously follow the detailed instructions provided in the application guidelines, ensuring your submission aligns precisely with FEMA's requirements. By paying attention to these guidelines, applicants avoid compromising the integrity of their applications and reducing the chances of successful consideration.

Overlooking cost-share requirements

Avoid the mistake of overlooking FEMA's cost-share requirements. Failing to provide a clear and accurate breakdown of how your organization will cover the required portion of project costs can jeopardize your application. Ensure your budget aligns with FEMA's expectations for cost sharing.

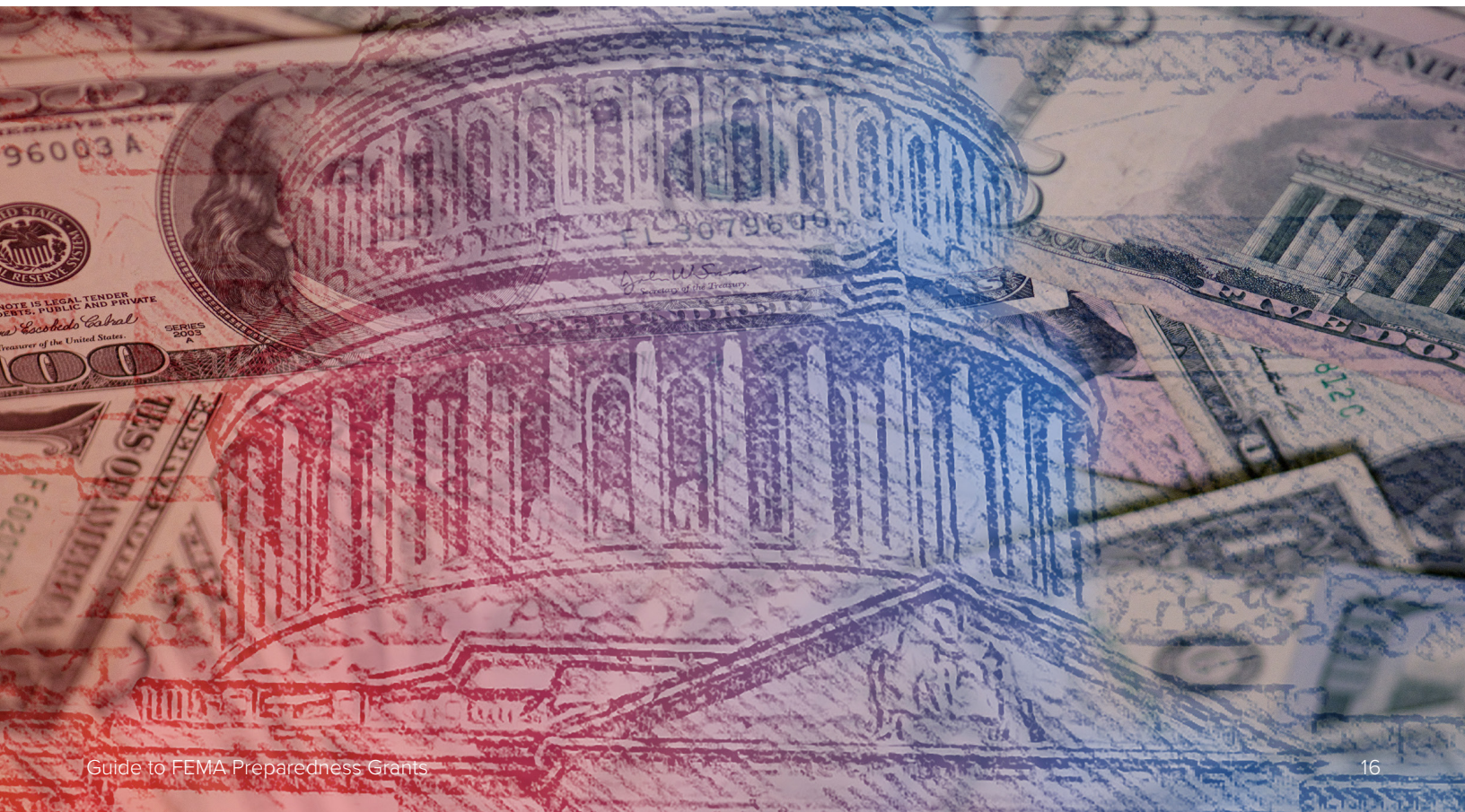
Excessive jargon and complexity

Keep your proposal prioritized for clarity, conciseness and accessibility to enhance

evaluators' comprehension. Clearly outline your project's challenges, briefly present your solution, and delineate measurable goals and outcomes aligned with FEMA priorities. Maintain simplicity in detailing your implementation plan and budget, avoiding unnecessary jargon. Articulate performance metrics and your project's adaptability, ensuring evaluators grasp your approach easily.

Getting to the finish line

By incorporating these "dos" and avoiding common pitfalls, your organization or community can confidently and competently navigate the FEMA preparedness grant application process. This comprehensive guide serves as a roadmap to success, empowering you to secure essential funding for disaster preparedness initiatives and contribute significantly to your community's resilience. Remember, a well-prepared and thoughtfully crafted proposal enhances your chances of obtaining FEMA funding and lays the groundwork for effective and impactful disaster preparedness initiatives.



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