

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Fiscal Year 2025 National Urban Search and Rescue Response System

Fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and other criminal or noncriminal misconduct related to this program may be reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline. The toll-free numbers to call are 1 (800) 323-8603 and TTY 1 (844) 889-4357.

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1. Basic Information

A. Agency Name	U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
B. NOFO Title	Fiscal Year 2025 National Urban Search and Rescue Response System
C. Announcement Type	Initial
D. Funding Opportunity Number	DHS-25-DOD-025-00-99
E. Assistance Listing Number	97.025
F. Expected Total Funding	\$ 40,274,708
G. Anticipated Number of Awards	28 awards
H. Expected Award Range	\$1.3 million – \$1.6 million
I. Projected Application Start Date	07/28/2025 09:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET)
J. Projected Application End Date	08/11/2025 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)

K. Anticipated Funding Selection Date	08/25/2025
L. Anticipated Award Date	09/01/2025
M. Projected Period of Performance Start Date	09/01/2025
N. Projected Period of Performance End Date	08/31/2028
O. Executive Summary	The National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (“the System”) is a mission critical element of FEMA’s emergency response and readiness capabilities and provides a coordinated, national, all-hazards capability for locating, extricating, and stabilizing survivors of structural collapse and other hazards resulting from natural and man-made causes, including those involving terrorism, contaminated environments, and weapons of mass destruction.
P. Agency Contact	<p>a. Program Office Contact Rayna Bal - rayna.bal@fema.dhs.gov b. FEMA Grants News This channel provides general information on all FEMA grant programs and maintains a comprehensive database containing key personnel contact information at the federal, state, and local levels. FEMA Grants News Team is reachable at fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov OR (800) 368-6498, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET.</p> <p>c. Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Award Administration Division GPD’s Award Administration Division (AAD) provides support regarding financial matters and budgetary technical assistance. AAD can be contacted at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.</p> <p>d. FEMA Regional Offices FEMA Regional Offices also may provide fiscal support, including pre- and post-award administration and technical assistance. FEMA Regional Office contact information is available at https://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts.</p> <p>e. Civil Rights Consistent with Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination & Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, the FEMA Office of Civil Rights is responsible for ensuring compliance with and enforcement of federal civil rights obligations in connection with programs and</p>

	<p>services conducted by FEMA. They are reachable at FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov.</p> <p>f. <i>Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation</i> The FEMA office of Environmental Planning and Historic Planning (OEHP) provides guidance and information about the EHP review process to FEMA programs and recipients and subrecipients. Send any inquiries regarding compliance for FEMA grant projects under this NOFO to FEMA-OEHP-NOFOQuestions@fema.dhs.gov.</p> <p>g. <i>Payment and Reporting System</i> FEMA uses the <u>Payment and Reporting System (PARS)</u> for financial reporting, invoicing, and tracking payments. The Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) method of payment is used for recipients. For any questions about the system, contact the Customer Service Center at (866) 927-5646 or ask- GMD@fema.dhs.gov.</p> <p>h. <i>FEMA GO</i> For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, please contact the FEMA GO Helpdesk at femago@fema.dhs.gov or (877) 585-3242, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET.</p> <p>i. <i>FEMA Preparedness Toolkit</i> The <u>FEMA Preparedness Toolkit</u> (PrepToolkit) provides access to tools and resources needed to implement the National Preparedness System and provide a collaborative space for communities completing the Unified Reporting Tool (URT). Recipients complete and submit their Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), and other required assessments using the PrepToolkit. For assistance, contact support@preptoolkit.fema.dhs.gov.</p> <p>j. <i>Preparedness Grants Manual</i> Recipients seeking guidance on policies and procedures for managing preparedness grants should reference the Preparedness Grants Manual at <u>Preparedness Grants Manual</u>.</p>
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2. Eligibility

A. Eligible Entities/Entity Types	<p>Only the following entities or entity types are eligible to apply.</p> <p>a. <i>Applicants</i> Must be one of the 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies.</p>
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	<p>The term “sponsoring agency” means a State or local government that is the sponsor of a task force designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.</p> <p>b. Subapplicants</p> <p>Subapplicants and subawards are not allowed.</p>
B. Project Type Eligibility	Not applicable.
C. Requirements for Personnel, Partners, and Other Parties	Not applicable.
D. Maximum Number of Applications	<p>The maximum number of applications that can be submitted is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One (1) per eligible Task Force Sponsoring Agency
E. Additional Restrictions	Applicants/subapplicants or recipients/subrecipients are required to certify their compliance with federal statutes, DHS directives, policies, and procedures.
F. References for Eligibility Factors within the NOFO	<p>Please see the following references provided below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Responsiveness Review Criteria” subsection 2. “Financial Integrity Criteria” subsection 3. “Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review” subsection 4. FEMA may/will request financial information such as Employer identification Number (EIN) and bank information as part of the potential award selection. This will apply to everyone prospered, including subrecipients.
G. Cost Sharing Requirement	There is no cost share requirement.
H. Cost Share Description, Type and Restrictions	Not applicable.
I. Cost Sharing Calculation Example	Not applicable.
J. Required information for verifying Cost Share	Not applicable.

3. Program Description

A. Background, Program Purpose, and Program History

The National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) receives federal funding to ensure adequate day to day administration, program and grant management, training, exercise, procurement (vehicle and equipment) and storage and maintenance for the 28 national task forces. The funding ensures the 28 task forces can maintain their readiness independent of Sponsoring Agency funding. When deployed, these task forces provide federal support to state, local and tribal territories in response to natural and man-made incidents, conducting mass search and rescue operations in the immediate aftermath of an incident, and assisting with stabilization and restoration of community lifelines immediately following an incident.

For a historical perspective, in FY24, awards were provided to each of the 28 FEMA US&R Sponsoring Agencies. In CY24, 59 US&R resources responded to four major disasters, rescuing, saving, or assisting 256 persons and searching or assessing 14,019 structures.

B. Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to provide for a national network of standardized search and rescue resources to assist States and local governments in responding to hazards.

Funding provided in this Cooperative Agreement ensures that all 28 System resources develop and maintain their targeted readiness and can perform independent of the Sponsoring Agency's ability to fund the required activities.

C. Program Rationale

Funding provided in this Cooperative Agreement ensures that the 28 Sponsoring Agencies develop and maintain their targeted readiness requirements, identified in [44 C.F.R. § 208.23](#) and reproduced below, and can do so independent of Sponsoring Agency funding.

Administration, including:

Management and administration of day-to-day System activities such as personnel compensation and benefits relating to System maintenance and development, record keeping, inventory of equipment, and correspondence

Travel to and from System activities, meetings, conferences, training, drills, and exercises.

Tests and examinations, including vaccinations, immunizations and other tests that are not typically required or provided during a System Member's employment, and that DHS requires to meet its standards.

Training:

Development and delivery of, and participation in, System-related training courses, exercises, and drills.

Maintenance, lease, or purchase of System-related training facilities or materials.

System-required evaluations and certifications other than those DHS requires System Members to possess at the time of entry into the System.

Equipment:

Procurement of equipment and supplies specifically identified on the then-current DHS-approved Equipment Cache List.

Maintenance and repair of equipment included on the current Equipment Cache List.

Maintenance and repair of equipment acquired with FEMA approval through the Federal Excess Property program.

Lease and maintenance of storage facilities and purchase of equipment and supplies necessary to maintain the US&R Equipment Cache.

Disaster search canine expenses limited to:

Procurement for use as a System resource.

Training and certification expenses.

Veterinary care.

D. Federal Assistance Type

Cooperative Agreement

FEMA, through the US&R Branch, maintains substantial involvement in the requirements contemplated by the award. Substantial involvement exists when: 1) Responsibility for project management, control, direction, or performance is shared by the assisting agency and the recipient.; 2) The assisting agency has the right to intervene, including interrupting or modifying project activities.

The purpose of this **Readiness Cooperative Agreement** is to support the continued development and maintenance of a national urban search and rescue capability.

Specifically, this agreement provides a mechanism for distribution of Cooperative Agreement funding for certain purposes in preparation of a Federal and local US&R capability for disaster response. This Cooperative Agreement allows each Sponsoring Agency of a System US&R task force the opportunity to maintain a high standard and condition of operational readiness and includes guidance on key areas for task force management to focus on continued preparedness efforts.

E. Performance Measures and Targets

Performance will be evaluated annually through the FEMA US&R Annual Self-Evaluation; the Self-Evaluation results will be validated triennially through the FEMA US&R Administrative Readiness Evaluation (ARE).

Factors to be evaluated:

Operations

Complement of Rostered Task Force Members (must be = or >140)

Complement of Trained Task Force Members (must be = or >140)

Complement of Deployable Task Force Members (must be = or >140)

Complement of Deployable Canine Search Specialist Teams (must be = or > 8)

Members Participating in Annual Training and Exercises (must be = or > 30)

Members Participating in Training/Drill Sessions Logistics (must be = or > 130)

Logistics

Complement of Cache Equipment Items (85% of the complement of equipment identified on the US&R Cache List)

Adequacy of Transportation Resources (documentation to support 100% of prime movers, as identified in the US&R Convoy Standard)

% of Cache Mobilization Doctrine – Training/Exercise (100% of necessary mobilization doctrine, e.g., load plans)

Adequacy of Cache Management Inventory System (system in a database, spreadsheet, etc. must contain 100% of all cache items tracked to its origin, cache list #, and Cooperative Agreement #)

Adequacy of Warehouse Resources (see FY2025 US&R Readiness Cooperative Agreement Statement of Work)

Administrative / Management

Complement of Cooperative Agreement Staffing and Resources (management staff to perform the functions of program management, grants management, logistics management and property accountability, administrative support, training coordination and instruction.

Validation of Complete, Accurate, Timely Cooperative Agreement Reports (Refer to Appendix H of the Statement of Work, Summary of Deliverables)

Validation of Cooperative Agreement Plans and Memoranda of Agreement (confirm current documentation)

Validation of Financial and Accounting Processes and Records (confirming integration of the 5 business systems)

Adequacy of Sponsoring Agency Support Functions (feedback on Sponsoring Agency support)

F. Program-Specific Unallowable Costs

Allowability is determined by [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E and 44 C.F.R. § 208.23](#). Any costs not allowable in accordance with these regulations, are not allowable under this award.

G. General Funding Requirements

Costs charged to federal awards (including federal and non-federal cost share funds) must comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations, policies, this NOFO, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred, and products and services must be delivered within the budget period. [2 C.F.R. § 200.403\(h\)](#).

Recipients may not use federal funds or any cost share funds for the following activities:

1. Matching or cost sharing requirements for other federal grants and cooperative agreements (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.306](#)).
2. Lobbying or other prohibited activities under [18 U.S.C § 1913](#) or [2 C.F.R. § 200.450](#).
3. Prosecuting claims against the federal government or any other government entity (see [2 C.F.R. § 200.435](#)).

H. Indirect Costs (Facilities and Administrative Costs)

Indirect costs are allowed for recipients.

Indirect costs (IDC) are costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to specific cost objectives without disproportionate effort. Applicants with a current negotiated IDC rate agreement who desire to charge indirect costs to a federal award must provide a copy of their IDC rate agreement with their applications. Not all applicants are required to have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement. Applicants that are not required to have a negotiated IDC rate agreement, but are required to develop an IDC rate proposal, must provide a copy of their proposal with their applications. Applicants without a current negotiated IDC rate agreement (including a provisional rate) and wish to charge the de minimis rate must reach out to FEMA for further instructions. Applicants who wish to use a cost allocation plan in lieu of an IDC rate proposal must reach out to FEMA for further instructions. As it relates to the IDC for subrecipients, a recipient must follow the requirements of [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.332](#) and [200.414](#) in approving the IDC rate for subawards.

I. Management and Administration (M&A) Costs

M&A costs are allowed.

Management and Administration costs are allowed under this program, as outlined in [44 C.F.R. § 208.23](#). Management and Administration costs are activities directly related to implementing the award. M&A costs are not operational costs. They are the necessary costs incurred in direct support of the grant or because of the grant and should be allocated across the entire lifecycle of the grant. Funding levels for M&A costs, if proposed, will be negotiated on a per applicant basis.

M&A are not overhead costs but are necessary direct costs incurred in direct support of the federal award or as a consequence of it, such as travel, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part-time staff in direct support of the program. As such, M&A costs can be itemized in financial reports.

J. Pre-Award Costs

The following pre-award costs are allowable:

1. Grant Programs Directorate approved costs for recipient.

Per [2 C.F.R. § 200.458](#), pre-award costs are those incurred before the effective date of the federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award and only with the written approval from FEMA.

To apply for the approval of pre-award costs (i.e., costs incurred prior to the beginning of the Period of Performance for this Cooperative Agreement) the recipient shall submit a justification as to why the pre-award cost approval is necessary, along with a detailed estimate of costs, in the application. The US&R Branch will review and forward the application to the Grant Programs Directorate for approval. The recipient will then be instructed to include their request and the approval with their application package submission.

K. Beneficiary Eligibility

There are no program eligibility requirements for beneficiaries. This NOFO and any subsequent federal awards create no rights or causes of action for any beneficiary

L. Participant Eligibility

There are no program eligibility requirements for participants. This NOFO and any subsequent federal awards create no rights or causes of action for any participant

M. Authorizing Authority

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 93-288, Sec. 327 (1974), (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C § 5165f).

N. Appropriation Authority

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Pub. L. No. 119-4, § 1101.

O. Budget Period

This award has a budget period of 09/01/2025 – 08/31/2030, however the FY 2025 US&R Readiness Period of Performance is 09/01/2025 – 08/31/2028.

P. Prohibition on Covered Equipment or Services

Recipients, sub-recipients, and their contractors or subcontractors must comply with the prohibitions set forth in Section 889 of the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019](#), which restrict the purchase of covered telecommunications and surveillance equipment and services. Please see 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.216, 200.327, 200.471, and Appendix II to 2 C.F.R. Part 200, and [FEMA Policy #405-143-1 - Prohibitions on Expending](#)

[FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services](#) for more information.

4. Application Contents and Format

A. Pre-Application, Letter of Intent, and Whitepapers
Not Applicable.

B. Application Content and Format
Not Applicable

C. Application Components

The following forms or information are required to be submitted via FEMA GO. The Standard Forms (SF) are also available at [Forms | Grants.gov](#).

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying
- SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction)
- SF-424B, Standard Assurances (Non-Construction)
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

D. Program-Specific Required Documents and Information

The following program-specific forms or information are required to be submitted in FEMA GO:

- Completed US&R Budget Narrative Workbook, FEMA Form 089-0-101; and
- Requests for pre-award costs (if applicable) must be made in writing on Sponsoring Agency letterhead and include detailed information on the need for pre-award funding; and
- If one or more vehicle purchases is/are included in the budget narrative, include the following:
 - Vehicle (rolling or floating) specifications of the vehicle(s) the applicant intends to purchase; and
 - A completed Vehicle Support Unit Purchase Replacement/Disposal Justification Form, FEMA Form 089-0-26

E. Post-Application Requirements for Successful Applicants
Not Applicable.

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

A. Address to Request Application Package

Applications are processed through the FEMA GO system. To access the system, go to <https://go.fema.gov/>.

Steps Required to Apply For An Award Under This Program and Submit an Application:

To apply for an award under this program, all applicants must:

- a. Apply for, update, or verify their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number and (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service;
- b. In the application, provide an UEI number;
- c. Have an account with login.gov;
- d. Register for, update, or verify their System for Award Management (SAM) account and ensure the account is active before submitting the application;
- e. Register in FEMA GO, add the organization to the system, and establish the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). The organization's electronic business point of contact (eBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/181607>;
- f. Submit the complete application in FEMA GO; and
- g. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. As part of this, applicants must also provide information on an applicant's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the last three years, if applicable.

Per [2 C.F.R. § 25.110\(a\)\(2\)\(iv\)](#), if an applicant is experiencing exigent circumstances that prevents it from obtaining an UEI number and completing SAM registration prior to receiving a federal award, the applicant must notify FEMA as soon as possible. Contact fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov and provide the details of the exigent circumstances.

How to Register to Apply:

General Instructions:

Registering and applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Below are instructions for registering to apply for FEMA funds. Read the instructions carefully and prepare the requested information before beginning the registration process. Gathering the required information before starting the process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. To ensure an application meets the deadline, applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission.

Organizations must have a (UEI) number, (EIN), and an active (SAM) registration.

Obtain a UEI Number:

All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI number. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the applicable data entry field on the SF-424 form. For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

Obtain Employer Identification Number:

In addition to having a UEI number, all entities applying for funding must provide an (EIN). The EIN can be obtained from the IRS by visiting <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

Create a login.gov account:

Applicants must have a login.gov account in order to register with SAM or update their SAM registration. Applicants can create a login.gov account at: https://secure.login.gov/sign_up/enter_email?request_id=34f19fa8-14a2-438c-8323-a62b99571fd.

Applicants only have to create a login.gov account once. For existing SAM users, use the same email address for both login.gov and SAM.gov so that the two accounts can be linked.

For more information on the login.gov requirements for SAM registration, refer to <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/loginFAQ.jsf>.

Register with SAM:

In addition to having a UEI number, all organizations must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through FEMA GO. SAM registration must be renewed annually and must remain active throughout the entire grant life cycle.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: [Register with SAM](#)

Note: per [2 C.F.R. § 25.200](#), applicants must also provide the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the past three years, if applicable.

Register in FEMA GO, Add the Organization to the System, and Establish the AOR:

Applicants must register in FEMA GO and add their organization to the system. The organization's electronic business point of contact (eBiz POC) from the SAM registration may need to be involved in this step. For step-by-step instructions, see : [FEMA GO Startup Guide](#)

Note: FEMA GO will support only the most recent major release of the following browsers:

Google Chrome;

Mozilla Firefox;

Apple Safari; and

Microsoft Edge.

Applicants using tablet type devices or other browsers may encounter issues with using FEMA GO.

Submitting the Final Application:

Applicants will be prompted to submit the standard application information, and any program-specific information required. Standard Forms (SF) may be accessed in the Forms tab under the: [SF-424 Family | Grants.gov](#).

Applicants should review these forms before applying to ensure they are providing all required information.

After submitting the final application, FEMA GO will provide either an error message, or an email to the submitting AOR confirming the transmission was successfully received.

B. Application Deadline

08/22/2025 11:59PM Eastern Time

C. Pre-Application Requirements Deadline

Not Applicable.

D. Post-Application Requirements Deadline

Not Applicable.

E. Effects of Missing the Deadline

All applications must be completed in FEMA GO by the application deadline. FEMA GO automatically records proof of submission and generates an electronic date/time stamp when FEMA GO successfully receives an application. The submitting AOR will receive via email the official date/time stamp and a FEMA GO tracking number to serve as proof of timely submission prior to the application deadline.

Applicants experiencing system-related issues have until 3:00 PM ET on the date applications are due to notify FEMA. No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline. Applications not received by the application submission deadline will not be accepted.

6. Intergovernmental Review

A. Requirement Description and State Single Point of Contact

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their state's [Single Point of Contact](#) (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372.

7. Application Review Information

A. Threshold Criteria

Applications will be reviewed to ensure the applicant is one of the 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies.

B. Application Criteria

US&R awards are not competitive, the applications are not rated. The award is available to all 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies.

C. Financial Integrity Criteria

Before making an award, FEMA is required to review OMB-designated databases for applicants' eligibility and financial integrity information. This is required by [the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 \(Pub. L. No. 116-117, § 2 \(2020\)\)](#), [41 U.S.C. § 2313](#), and [the “Do Not Pay Initiative” \(31 U.S.C. 3354\)](#). For more details, please see [2 C.F.R. § 200.206](#).

Thus, the Financial Integrity Criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

1. Financial stability.
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards.
3. History of performance in managing federal award.
4. Reports and findings from audits.
5. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

D. Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review

Before making an award expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently a total federal share of \$250,000) over the period of performance:

FEMA is required by [41 U.S.C. § 2313](#) to review or consider certain information found in SAM.gov. For details, please see [2 C.F.R. § 200.206\(a\)\(2\)](#).

1. An applicant may review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov.
2. Before making decisions in the risk review required by [2 C.F.R. § 200.206](#), FEMA will consider any comments by the applicant.

E. Reviewers and Reviewer Selection

The first review will be performed by a FEMA US&R Branch staff member with subject matter expertise in the US&R program requirements, budget spend plan, and grant management experience. The second review is performed by the FEMA Grants Program Directorate (GPD) by a Grant Specialist or Assistance Officer with subject matter expertise in grant management and assistance.

F. Merit Review Process

US&R awards are not competitive, the applications are not rated. The award is available to all 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies.

G. Final Selection

US&R awards are not competitive, the applications are not rated. The award is available to all 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies.

8. Award Notices

A. Notice of Award

The Authorized Organization Representative should carefully read the federal award package before accepting the federal award. The federal award package includes instructions on administering the federal award as well as terms and conditions for the award.

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the prerequisites stated in this NOFO and the material terms and conditions of the federal award, should they receive an award.

FEMA will provide the federal award package to the applicant electronically via FEMA GO. Award packages include an Award Letter, Summary Award Memo, Agreement Articles, and Obligating Document. An award package notification email is sent via the grant application system to the submitting AOR.

Recipients must accept their awards no later than 90 days from the award date. Recipients shall notify FEMA of their intent to accept the award and proceed with work via the FEMA GO system.

Funds will remain on hold until the recipient accepts the award via FEMA GO and all other conditions of the award have been satisfied, or until the award is otherwise rescinded. Failure to accept a grant award within the specified timeframe may result in a loss of funds.

B. Pass-Through Requirements Not Applicable.

C. Note Regarding Pre-Award Costs

Even if pre-award costs are allowed, beginning performance is at the applicant and/or sub-applicant's own risk.

D. Obligation of Funds

Funds are obligated to the 28 US&R Sponsoring Agencies at the time of award. All recipients receive an Award Letter.

E. Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants

This is a non-competitive award. Each of the 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies will receive funding under this award. Applicants that are not one of the 28 FEMA-designated Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agencies will be disqualified with no notification provided.

9. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Presidential Executive Orders

Recipients must comply with the requirements of Presidential Executive Orders related to grants (also known as federal assistance and financial assistance), the full text of which are incorporated by reference.

In accordance with [Executive Order 14305, Restoring American Airspace Sovereignty \(June 6, 2025\)](#), and to the extent allowed by law, eligible state, local, tribal, and territorial grant recipients under this NOFO are permitted to purchase unmanned aircraft systems, otherwise known as drones, or equipment or services for the detection, tracking, or identification of drones and drone signals, consistent with the legal authorities of state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. Recipients must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and adhere to any statutory requirements on the use of federal funds for such unmanned aircraft systems, equipment, or services.

Subrecipient Monitoring and Management

Pass-through entities must comply with the requirements for subrecipient monitoring and management as set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.331-333.

B. DHS Standard Terms and Conditions

A recipient under this funding opportunity must comply with the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions in effect as of the date of the federal award. The DHS Standard Terms and Conditions are available online: [DHS Standard Terms and Conditions | Homeland Security](#). For continuation awards, the terms and conditions for the initial federal award will apply unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of the continuation award. The specific version of the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions applicable to the federal award will be in the federal award package.

A recipient under this funding opportunity must comply with the FY 2025 Department of Homeland Security Standard Terms and Conditions, v. 3 (Apr. 18, 2025), with the exception Paragraph C.IX (Communication and Cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration Officials) and paragraph C.XVII(2)(a)(iii) (Anti-Discrimination Grant Award Certification regarding immigration). Paragraphs C.IX and C.XVII(2)(a)(iii) do not apply to any federal award under this funding opportunity. The FY 2025 Department of Homeland Security Standard Terms and Conditions, v. 3 (Apr. 18, 2025) are available at www.dhs.gov/publication/dhs-standard-terms-and-conditions.

C. Financial Reporting Requirements

1. Recipients must report obligations and expenditures through a federal financial report. The Federal Financial Report (FFR) form, also known as Standard Form 425 (SF-425), is available online at: [SF-425 OMB #4040-0014](#).
2. Recipients must submit the FFR quarterly throughout the period of performance (POP)
3. The final FFR is due within 120 calendar days after the end of the POP.

FEMA may withhold future federal awards and cash payments if the recipient does not submit timely financial reports, or the financial reports submitted demonstrate lack of progress or provide insufficient detail.

D. Programmatic Performance Reporting Requirements

1. A Performance Report must be submitted semi-annually throughout the POP.
2. A Performance Report must include task force accomplishments and the total budgeted, expenditures and balance for the Cooperative Agreement funding within the following areas: Administration/Management, Training, Equipment, and Maintenance/Storage.
3. The Progress Report must be submitted through FEMA GO.
4. Performance Report Due Dates
 - a. Due July 30, for the period of Jan. 1 – June 30
 - b. Due Jan. 30, for the period of July 1 – Dec. 31

E. Closeout Reporting Requirements

Within 120 days after the end of the period of performance, or after an amendment has been issued to close out a federal award, recipients must submit the following:

1. The final request for payment, if applicable.
2. The final FFR.
3. The final progress report detailing all accomplishments.
4. A qualitative narrative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance.
5. Other documents required by this NOFO, terms and conditions of the federal award, or other DHS Component guidance.

After FEMA approves these reports, it will issue a closeout notice. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds to be de-obligated, and address the record maintenance requirement. Unless a longer period applies, such as due to an audit or litigation, for equipment or real property used beyond the period of performance, or due to other circumstances outlined in [2 C.F.R. § 200.334](#), this maintenance requirement is three years from the date of the final FFR.

Also, pass-through entities are responsible for closing out those subawards as described in [2 C.F.R. § 200.344](#); subrecipients are still required to submit closeout materials within 90 calendar days of the subaward period of performance end date. When a subrecipient completes all closeout requirements, pass-through entities must promptly complete all closeout actions in time for the recipient to submit all necessary documentation and information to FEMA during the closeout of their prime award. The recipient is responsible for returning any balances of unobligated or unliquidated funds that have been drawn down that are not authorized to be retained per [2 C.F.R. § 200.344\(e\)](#).

Administrative Closeout

Administrative closeout is a mechanism for FEMA to unilaterally execute closeout of an award. FEMA will use available award information in lieu of final recipient reports, per [2 C.F.R. § 200.344\(h\)-\(i\)](#). It is an activity of last resort, and if FEMA administratively closes an award, this may negatively impact a recipient's ability to obtain future funding.

Additional Reporting Requirements

Anytime there is a chance in personnel for any of the awardees and/or subrecipients, their information needs to be submitted for approval (all the previous personal information identified).

See Appendix A: US&R Task Force FY 2025 Readiness Cooperative Agreement Statement of Work, Section I, for complete list of reporting requirements.

F. Disclosing Information per 2 C.F.R. § 180.335

Before entering into a federal award, the applicant must notify FEMA if it knows that the applicant or any of the principals (as defined at [2 C.F.R. § 180.995](#)) for the federal award:

1. Are presently excluded or disqualified;
2. Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against you for one of those offenses within that time period;
3. Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with the commission of any of the offenses listed in § 180.800(a); or
4. Have had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

This requirement is fully described in [2 C.F.R. §180.335](#).

Additionally, [2 C.F.R. § 180.350](#) requires recipients to provide immediate notice to FEMA at any time after entering a federal award if:

1. The recipient learns that either it failed to earlier disclose information as required by 2 C.F.R. § 180.335.
2. Due to changed circumstances, the applicant or any of the principals for the federal award now meet the criteria at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335 listed above.

G. Reporting of Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

[Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) states the terms and conditions for recipient integrity and performance matters used for this funding opportunity.

If the total value of all active federal grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts for a recipient exceeds \$10,000,000 at any time during the period of performance:

1. The recipient must maintain the currency of information reported in SAM.gov about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in paragraph 2 of Appendix XII;
2. The required reporting frequency is described in paragraph 4 of Appendix XII.

H. Single Audit Report

A recipient expending \$1,000,000 or more in federal awards (as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#)) during its fiscal year must undergo an audit. This may be either a single audit complying with [2 C.F.R. § 200.514](#) or a program-specific audit complying with [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.501](#) and [200.507](#). Audits must follow [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F](#), 2 C.F.R. § 200.501, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) [Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards](#).

I. Monitoring and Oversight

Per [2 C.F.R. § 200.337](#), DHS and its authorized representatives have the right of access to any records of the recipient or subrecipient pertinent to a Federal award to perform audits, site visits, and any other official use. The right also includes timely and reasonable access to the recipient's or subrecipient's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents or the Federal award in general.

Pursuant to this right and per [2 C.F.R. § 200.329](#), DHS may conduct desk reviews and make site visits to review and evaluate project accomplishments and management control systems as well as provide any required technical assistance. Recipients and subrecipients must respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to a federal award.

J. Program Evaluation

Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-435 (2019) (Evidence Act), [PUBL435.PS](#) urges federal agencies to use program evaluation as a critical tool to learn, improve delivery, and elevate program service and delivery across the program lifecycle. Evaluation means “an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency.” Evidence Act, § 101 (codified at 5 U.S.C. § 311). OMB A-11, Section 290 (Evaluation and Evidence-Building Activities) further outlines the standards and practices for evaluation activities. Federal agencies are required to specify any requirements for recipient participation in program evaluation activities (2 C.F.R. § 200.301). Program evaluation activities incorporated from the outset in the NOFO and program design and implementation allow recipients and agencies to meaningfully document and measure progress and achievement towards program goals and objectives, and identify program outcomes and lessons learned, as part of demonstrating recipient performance (2 C.F.R. § 200.301).

As such, recipients and subrecipients are required to participate in a Program Office (PO) or a DHS Component-led evaluation, if selected. This may be carried out by a third-party on behalf of the PO or the DHS Component. Such an evaluation may involve information collections including but not limited to, records of the recipients; surveys, interviews, or discussions with individuals who benefit from the federal award, program operating personnel, and award recipients; and site visits or other observation of recipient activities, as specified in a DHS Component or PO-approved evaluation plan. More details about evaluation requirements may be provided in the federal award, if available at that time, or following the award as evaluation requirements are finalized. Evaluation costs incurred during the period of performance are allowable costs (either as direct or indirect) in accordance with [2 C.F.R. § 200.413](#).

Recipients and subrecipients are also encouraged, but not required, to participate in any additional evaluations after the period of performance ends, although any costs incurred to participate in such evaluations are not allowable and may not be charged to the federal award.

K. Additional Performance Reporting Requirements

Not Applicable.

L. Termination of Federal Award

1. Paragraph C.XL of the FY 2025 DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v.3, sets forth a term and condition entitled “Termination of a Federal Award.” The termination provision condition listed below applies to the grant award. Paragraph C.XL of the FY 2025 DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v.3, does not apply to grant awards made pursuant to this NOFO.

2. Termination of the Federal Award by FEMA

FEMA may terminate the federal award in whole or in part for one of the following reasons identified in 2 C.F.R. § 200.340:

- a. If the recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the federal award.
- b. With the consent of the recipient, in which case FEMA and the recipient must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.
- c. If the federal award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities. Under this provision, FEMA may terminate the award for these purposes if any of the following reasons apply:
 - i. If DHS/FEMA, in its sole discretion, determines that a specific award objective is ineffective at achieving program goals as described in this NOFO;
 - ii. If DHS/FEMA, in its sole discretion, determines that an objective of the award as described in this NOFO will be ineffective at achieving program goals or agency priorities;
 - iii. If DHS/FEMA, in its sole discretion, determines that the design of the grant program is flawed relative to program goals or agency priorities;
 - iv. If DHS/FEMA, in its sole discretion, determines that the grant program is not aligned to either the DHS Strategic Plan, the FEMA Strategic Plan, or successor policies or documents;
 - v. If DHS/FEMA, in its sole discretion, changes or re-evaluates the goals or priorities of the grant program and determines that the award will be ineffective at achieving the updated program goals or agency priorities; or
 - vi. For other reasons based on program goals or agency priorities described in the termination notice provided to the recipient pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.341.
 - vii. If the awardee falls out of compliance with the Agency’s statutory or regulatory authority, award terms and conditions, or other applicable laws.

3. Termination of a Subaward by the Pass-Through Entity

The pass-through entity may terminate a subaward in whole or in part for one of the following reasons identified in 2 C.F.R. § 200.340:

- a. If the subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the federal award.

- b. With the consent of the subrecipient, in which case the pass-through entity and the subrecipient must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.
- c. If the pass-through entity's award has been terminated the pass-through recipient will terminate its subawards.

4. Termination by the Recipient or Subrecipient

The recipient or subrecipient may terminate the federal award in whole or in part for the following reason identified in 2 C.F.R. § 200.340: Upon sending FEMA or pass-through entity a written notification of the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. However, if FEMA or pass-through entity determines that the remaining portion of the federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which the Federal award was made, FEMA or pass-through entity may terminate the federal award in its entirety.

5. Impacts of Termination

- a. When FEMA terminates the federal award prior to the end of the period of performance due to the recipient's material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the federal award, FEMA will report the termination in SAM.gov in the manner described at 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(c).
- b. When the federal award is terminated in part or its entirety, FEMA or pass-through entity and recipient or subrecipient remain responsible for compliance with the requirements in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.344 and 200.345.

6. Notification requirements

FEMA or the pass-through entity must provide written notice of the termination in a manner consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.341. The federal award will be terminated on the date of the notification unless stated otherwise in the notification.

7. Opportunities to Object and Appeals

Where applicable, when FEMA terminates the federal award, the written notification of termination will provide the opportunity and describe the process to object and provide information challenging the action, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.342.

8. Effects of Suspension and Termination

The allowability of costs to the recipient or subrecipient resulting from financial obligations incurred by the recipient or subrecipient during a suspension or after the termination of a federal award are subject to 2 C.F.R. § 200.343.

M. Best Practices

While not a requirement in the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, as a best practice: Entities receiving funds through this program should ensure that cybersecurity is integrated

into the design, development, operation, and maintenance of investments that impact information technology (IT) and/ or operational technology (OT) systems. Additionally, “The recipient and subrecipient must take reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including protected personally identifiable information (PII) and other types of information.” 2 C.F.R. § 200.303(e).

N. Payment Information

Recipients will submit payment requests in FEMA GO for FY25 awards under this program.

Instructions to Grant Recipients Pursuing Payments

FEMA reviews all grant payments and obligations to ensure allowability in accordance with [2 C.F.R. § 200.305](#). These measures ensure funds are disbursed appropriately while continuing to support and prioritize communities who rely on FEMA for assistance. Once a recipient submits a payment request, FEMA will review the request. If FEMA approves a payment, recipients will be notified by FEMA GO and the payment will be delivery pursuant to the recipients SAM.gov financial information. If FEMA disapproves a payment, FEMA will inform the recipient.

Processing and Payment Timeline

FEMA must comply with regulations governing payments to grant recipients. See [2 C.F.R. § 200.305](#). For grant recipients other than States, [2 C.F.R. § 200.305\(b\)\(3\)](#) stipulates that FEMA is to make payments on a reimbursement basis within 30 days after receipt of the payment request, unless FEMA reasonably believes the request to be improper. For state recipients, [2 C.F.R. § 200.305\(a\)](#) instructs that federal grant payments are governed by Treasury-State Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) agreements ("Treasury-State agreement") and default procedures codified at [31 C.F.R. part 205](#) and [Treasury Financial Manual \(TFM\) 4A-2000, "Overall Disbursing Rules for All Federal Agencies."](#) See [2 C.F.R. § 200.305\(a\)](#).

Treasury-State agreements generally apply to "major federal assistance programs" that are governed by [31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart A](#) and are identified in the Treasury-State agreement. [31 C.F.R. §§ 205.2, 205.6](#). Where a federal assistance (grant) program is not governed by subpart A, payment and funds transfers from FEMA to the state are subject to [31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B](#). Subpart B requires FEMA to "limit a funds transfer to a state to the minimum amounts needed by the state and must time the disbursement to be in accord with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the state in carrying out a federal assistance program or project. The timing and amount of funds transfers must be as close as is administratively feasible to a state's actual cash outlay for direct program costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs." [31 C.F.R. § 205.33\(a\)](#). Nearly all FEMA grants are not "major federal assistance programs." As a result, payments to states for those grants are subject to the "default" rules of [31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B](#).

If additional information is needed, a request for information will be issued by FEMA to the recipient; recipients are strongly encouraged to respond to any additional FEMA request for

information inquiries within three business days. If an adequate response is not received, the request may be denied, and the entity may need to submit a new reimbursement request; this will re-start the 30-day timeline.

Submission Process

All non-disaster grant program reimbursement requests must be reviewed and approved by FEMA prior to drawdowns.

For all non-disaster reimbursement requests (regardless of system), please ensure submittal of the following information:

1. Grant ID / Award Number
2. Total amount requested for drawdown
3. Purpose of drawdown and timeframe covered (must be within the award performance period)
4. Subrecipient Funding Details (if applicable).
 - Is funding provided directly or indirectly to a subrecipient?
 - If **no**, include statement “This grant funding is not being directed to a subrecipient.”
 - If **yes**, provide the following details:
 - The name, mission statement, and purpose of each subrecipient receiving funds, along with the amount allocated and the specific role or activity being reimbursed.
 - Whether the subrecipient’s work or mission involves supporting aliens, regardless of whether FEMA funds support such activities.
 - Whether the payment request includes an activity involving support to aliens.
 - Whether the subrecipient has and diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.
5. Supporting documentation to demonstrate that expenses are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary under [2 CFR part 200](#) and in compliance with the grant’s NOFO, award terms, and applicable federal regulations.

O. Immigration Conditions

A recipient under this funding opportunity must comply with the FY 2025 Department of Homeland Security Standard Terms and Conditions, v. 3 (Apr. 18, 2025), with the exception Paragraph C.IX (Communication and Cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration Officials) and paragraph C.XVII(2)(a)(iii) (Anti-Discrimination Grant Award Certification regarding immigration). Paragraphs C.IX and C.XVII(2)(a)(iii) do not apply to any federal award under this funding opportunity. The FY 2025 Department of Homeland Security Standard Terms and Conditions, v. 3 (Apr. 18, 2025) are available at www.dhs.gov/publication/dhs-standard-terms-and-conditions.

10. Other Information

A. Period of Performance Extension

Extensions to the period of performance are allowed under extenuating circumstances.

Recipients should consult with their FEMA point of contact for requirements related to a performance period extension.

B. Other Information

a. *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance*

FEMA is required to consider effects of its actions on the environment and historic properties to ensure that activities, grants and programs funded by FEMA, comply with federal EHP laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies.

Recipients and subrecipients proposing projects with the potential to impact the environment or cultural resources, such as the modification or renovation of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, and/or new construction and/or replacement of buildings, structures, and facilities, must participate in the FEMA EHP review process. This includes conducting early engagement to help identify EHP resources, such as threatened or endangered species, historic properties, or communities with environmental concerns; submitting a detailed project description with supporting documentation to determine whether the proposed project has the potential to impact EHP resources; and, identifying mitigation measures and/or alternative courses of action that may lessen impacts to those resources.

FEMA is sometimes required to consult with other regulatory agencies and the public in order to complete the review process. Federal law requires EHP review to be completed before federal funds are released to carry out proposed projects. FEMA may not be able to fund projects that are not in compliance with applicable EHP laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies. FEMA may recommend mitigation measures and/or alternative courses of action to lessen impacts to EHP resources and bring the project into EHP compliance.

EHP guidance is found at [Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation](#). The site contains links to documents identifying agency EHP responsibilities and program requirements, such as implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act and other EHP laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. DHS and FEMA EHP policy is also found in the [EHP Directive & Instruction](#).

All FEMA actions, including grants, must comply with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) criteria or any more restrictive federal, state, or local floodplain management standards or building code ([44 C.F.R. § 9.11\(d\)\(6\)](#)). For actions located within or that may affect a floodplain or wetland, the following alternatives must be considered: a) no action; b) alternative locations; and c) alternative actions, including alternative actions that use natural features or nature-based solutions. Where possible, natural features and nature-based solutions shall be used. If not practicable as an alternative on their own, natural features and nature-based solutions may be incorporated into actions as minimization measures.

The GPD EHP screening form is located at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ehp-screening_form_ff-207-fy-21-100_5-26-2021.pdf.

b. *Procurement Integrity*

When purchasing under a FEMA award, recipients and subrecipients must comply with the federal procurement standards in [2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327](#). To assist with determining whether an action is a procurement or instead a subaward, please consult [2 C.F.R. § 200.331](#). For detailed guidance on the federal procurement standards, recipients and subrecipients should refer to various materials issued by FEMA's Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT). Additional resources, including an upcoming trainings schedule can be found on the PDAT Website: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/procurement>.

Under [2 C.F.R. § 200.317](#) when procuring property and services under a federal award, States (including territories) and Indian Tribes, must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements from their non-federal funds; additionally, states and Indian Tribes must now follow [2 CFR §200.322](#), regarding domestic preferences for Procurements and [2 CFR§ 200.327](#) regarding required contract provisions.

Local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients must have and use their own documented procurement procedures that reflect applicable State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable federal law and the standards identified in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

1. Important Changes to Procurement Standards in 2 C.F.R. Part 200

On April 22, 2024, OMB updated various parts of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, among them the procurement standards. These revisions apply to all FEMA awards with a federal award date or disaster declaration date on or after October 1, 2024, unless specified otherwise. The changes include updates to the federal procurement standards, which govern how FEMA award recipients and subrecipients must purchase under a FEMA award.

More information on OMB's revisions to the federal procurement standards can be found in [Purchasing Under a FEMA Award: 2024 OMB Revisions Fact Sheet](#).

2. Competition and Conflicts of Interest

[2 CFR §200.319\(b\)](#), applicable to local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients, requires that contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. FEMA considers these actions to be an organizational conflict of interest and interprets this restriction as applying to contractors that help a recipient or subrecipient develop its grant application, project plans, or project budget. This prohibition also applies to the use of former employees to manage the grant or carry out a contract when those former employees worked on such activities while they were employees of the recipient or subrecipient.

Under this prohibition, unless the recipient or subrecipient solicits for and awards a contract covering both development and execution of specifications (or similar elements as described above), and this contract was procured in compliance with [2 C.F.R. § § 200.317-200.327](#), federal funds cannot be used to pay a contractor to carry out the work if that contractor also worked on the development of those specifications. This rule applies to all contracts funded with federal grant funds, including pre-award costs, such as grant writer fees, as well as post- award costs, such as grant management fees.

In addition to organizational conflicts of interest, situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to:

- Placing unreasonable requirements on firms for them to qualify to do business;
- Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;
- Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies;
- Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;
- Specifying only a “brand name” product instead of allowing “an equal” product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
- Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

Under [2 C.F.R. § 200.318\(c\)\(1\)](#), local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients are required to maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of their employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. **No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such conflicts of interest would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The officers, employees, and agents of the recipient or subrecipient may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, the recipient or subrecipient may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The recipient’s or subrecipient’s standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents.**

Under [2 C.F.R. 200.318\(c\)\(2\)](#), if the local government and nonprofit recipient or subrecipient has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a SLTT government, the recipient or subrecipient must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflict of interest means that because of a relationship with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the recipient or subrecipient is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization. The recipient or subrecipient must disclose in writing any potential conflicts of interest to FEMA or the pass-through entity in accordance with applicable FEMA policy.

3. Supply Schedules and Purchasing Programs

Generally, a recipient or subrecipient may seek to procure goods or services from a federal supply schedule, state supply schedule, or group purchasing agreement.

Information about GSA programs for states, Indian Tribes, and local governments, and their instrumentalities, can be found at [Purchasing Resources and Support for State and Local Governments.pdf](#)

Help for state, local, and tribal governments to make MAS buys | GSA and <https://www.gsa.gov/buying-selling/purchasing-programs/gsa-schedules/schedule-buyers/state-and-local-governments>.

4. Procurement Documentation

Per [2 C.F.R. § 200.318\(i\)](#), local government and nonprofit recipients or subrecipients are required to maintain and retain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement covering at least the rationale for the procurement method, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price. States and Indian Tribes are reminded that in order for any cost to be allowable, it must be adequately documented per [2 CFR §200.403\(g\)](#).

Examples of the types of documents that would cover this information include but are not limited to:

- Solicitation documentation, such as requests for quotes, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals;
- Responses to solicitations, such as quotes, bids, or proposals;
- Pre-solicitation independent cost estimates and post-solicitation cost/price analyses on file for review by federal personnel, if applicable;
- Contract documents and amendments, including required contract provisions; and
- Other documents required by federal regulations applicable at the time a grant is awarded to a recipient.

c. Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure

1. Build America, Buy America Act

Recipients and subrecipients must comply with FEMA's implementation requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA), which was enacted as part of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act §§ 70901-70927, Pub. L. No. 117-58 \(2021\)](#); and [Executive Order 14005, Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers](#). See also [2 C.F.R. Part 184, Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects](#) and [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\), Memorandum M-24-02, Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure](#).

None of the funds provided under this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in that infrastructure are produced in the United States.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

To see whether a particular FEMA federal financial assistance program is considered an infrastructure program and thus required to implement FEMA's Build America, Buy America requirements, please see [Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov](#)

2. Waivers

When necessary, recipients (and subrecipients through their pass-through entity) may apply for, and FEMA may grant, a waiver from these requirements.

A waiver of the domestic content procurement preference may be granted by the agency awarding official if FEMA determines that:

- Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest, or
- The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality, or
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

The process for requesting a waiver from the Buy America preference requirements can be found on FEMA's website at: ["Buy America" Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure | FEMA.gov](#).

3. Definitions

For definitions of the key terms of the Build America, Buy America Act, please visit [Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov](#).

d. *Mandatory Disclosures*

The non-Federal entity or applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award, [2 CFR § 200.113](#).

e. *Adaptive Support*

Pursuant to [Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#), recipients of FEMA financial assistance must ensure that their programs and activities do not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.

f. *Record Retention*

1. Record Retention Period

Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to a federal award generally must be maintained for at least three years from the date the final FFR is submitted. *See* [2 C.F.R. §200.334](#). Further, if the recipient does not submit a final FFR and the award is administratively closed, FEMA uses the date of administrative closeout as the start of the general record retention period.

The record retention period **may be longer than three years or have a different start date** in certain cases.

2. Types of Records to Retain

FEMA requires that recipients and subrecipients maintain the following documentation for federally funded purchases:

- Specifications
- Solicitations
- Competitive quotes or proposals
- Basis for selection decisions
- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Cancelled checks

g. Actions to Address Noncompliance

Non-federal entities receiving financial assistance funding from FEMA are required to comply with requirements in the terms and conditions of their awards or subawards, including the terms set forth in applicable federal statutes, regulations, NOFOs, and policies. Throughout the award lifecycle or even after an award has been closed, FEMA or the pass-through entity may discover potential or actual noncompliance on the part of a recipient or subrecipient.

In the case of any potential or actual noncompliance, FEMA may place special conditions on an award per [2 C.F.R. § 200.208](#) and [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#). FEMA may place a hold on funds until the matter is corrected, or additional information is provided per [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#), or it may do both. Similar remedies for noncompliance with certain federal civil rights laws are authorized pursuant to [44 C.F.R. Part 7](#) and [44 C.F.R. Part 19](#) or other applicable regulations.

If the noncompliance is not able to be corrected by imposing additional conditions or the recipient or subrecipient refuses to correct the matter, FEMA may take other remedies allowed under [2 C.F.R. § 200.339](#).

h. Audits

FEMA grant recipients are subject to audit oversight from multiple entities including the DHS OIG, the GAO, the pass-through entity, or independent auditing firms for single audits, and may cover activities and costs incurred under the award. Auditing agencies such as the DHS OIG, the GAO, and the pass-through entity (if applicable), and FEMA in its oversight capacity, must have access to records pertaining to the FEMA award.

11. Appendices

- A. National Urban Search and Rescue Response System (US&R) Task Force FY 2025 Cooperative Agreement Statement of Work
- B. Budget Narrative
- C. Cooperative Agreement Funding – Recommended Allocations (Spend Plan)
- D. Task Force Allocations and Budget Totals
- E. Administration Budget
- F. Special Equipment Cache Allocations (HEPP, IST, Medical)
- G. Annual Advisory Organization Stipends
- H. Summary of Deliverables and Points of Contact