




FEMA

October 12, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: All States, Territories, Tribal Governments, Local Governments, and All Other Non-Federal Entities Receiving FEMA Financial Assistance

FROM: Robert A. Farmer   
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Grant Programs Directorate

SUBJECT: Eligible Costs During Periods of Civil Unrest Under the Homeland Security Grant and Emergency Management Performance Grant Programs

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) offers guidance on eligible costs under certain grant programs during periods of civil unrest. FEMA's programs operate under varied statutory provisions that have different allowability and eligibility requirements; however, the potential to reprogram funds for limited purposes may exist under the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program

- HSGP. States and urban areas may use utilize funding awarded under the HSGP State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to *respond* to acts of terrorism. States and high-risk urban areas may utilize HSGP funds to reimburse costs related to non-terrorism events as long as the activity also assists governments in achieving core capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to acts of terrorism. This multiple-purpose principle is authorized by 6 U.S.C. § 609(c).
- EMPG. The EMPG program assists state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies in obtaining the resources required for implementing the National Preparedness System and the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Therefore, EMPG funding potentially can be used to support response needs or capabilities for all phases of emergency management. EMPG does not require a "terrorism nexus".

Requests to reprogram HSGP or EMPG funds, or questions regarding the eligibility, allowability, and reprogramming of FEMA grant program funds to support response capability during periods of civil unrest, should be directed to your FEMA Regional Program Analyst (EMPG) or HQ Preparedness Officer (HSGP). Recipients should also consult the latest [National Terrorism System Advisory Bulletin](#) for information on additional preparedness guidance. Note that, for HSGP, reprogramming of funds must take into consideration National Priority Area minimum spending requirements and that the majority of awarded funds generally are already obligated for specific projects.