



How do we Evolve Disaster Assistance for Individuals?

Presented by:

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What's the Issue? Is there a problem?



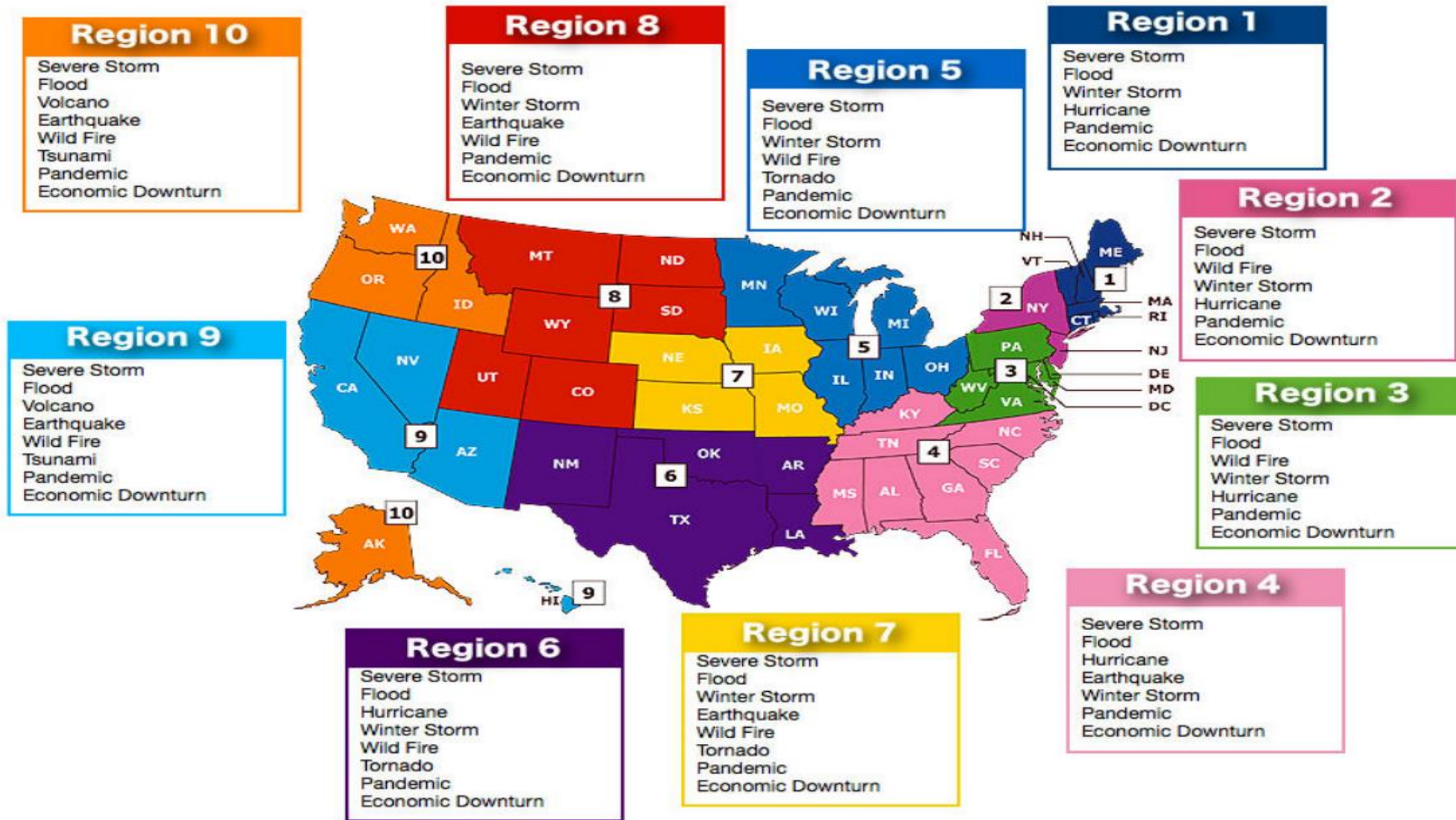
- Disasters across the country are more frequent than in prior years and decades
- The area of responsibility between what the local and state government provides and what the Federal government provides may establish a gap where there is no support
- Demands on VOADs and Faith-Based organizations are increasing, sometimes at an unsustainable pace
- Community comes together in the hours / days after disasters and rallies to support the survivors

What's the Issue? Is there a problem?

From the Fall, 2018 to Fall, 2021, the Federal government turned down 40% of the requests from states for FEMA's Individual Assistance Program – totaling 33 denials.



- Almost 17,000 disaster relief organizations in the United States*
- More than half of these organizations have revenues less than \$1M – almost 7,000 of them are less than \$250K.*
- Numbers of volunteers are not increasing with the more frequent disasters – fewer resources to go around with a growing need for assistance



West Virginia Disasters-By the Numbers

- 2012-2022
 - 16 Major Disaster Declarations (not counting COVID 19)
 - 16 Public Assistance / 6 Individual Assistance
 - 7 of 10 years – there has been at least one Major Disaster Declaration in WV
- Hazard Breakdown
 - 1 Hurricane
 - 1 Tornado
 - 1 Winter Storm
 - 1 Straight Line Wind Event
 - 11 Mudslide/Landslide
 - 12 Severe Storms
 - 13 Floods

What is FEMA's Public Assistance?

- It's a reimbursement program that provides federal funding to help communities respond to and recover from disasters
- FEMA reimburses state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed infrastructure.
- Government agencies and nonprofits need to submit information and documentation so FEMA can make an eligibility determination. These may include contracts, invoices, procurement policies, labor records, lists of equipment used and maintenance records.

What is FEMA's Public Assistance?

- FEMA's Public Assistance is a cost-sharing program which reimburses applicants at least 75 percent of eligible costs.
- FEMA obligates funds to the state once a project meets Stafford Act eligibility requirements.
- The state is the official recipient of FEMA federal assistance. The state is then responsible for disbursing the money to applicants.

What is FEMA Individual Assistance?

Stafford Act Authorities

- Individuals and Household Program (IHP)
- Disaster Case Management (DCM)
- Crisis Counseling Program (CCP)
- Disaster Legal Services (DLS)
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

How is an Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for IA made? What are the factors?

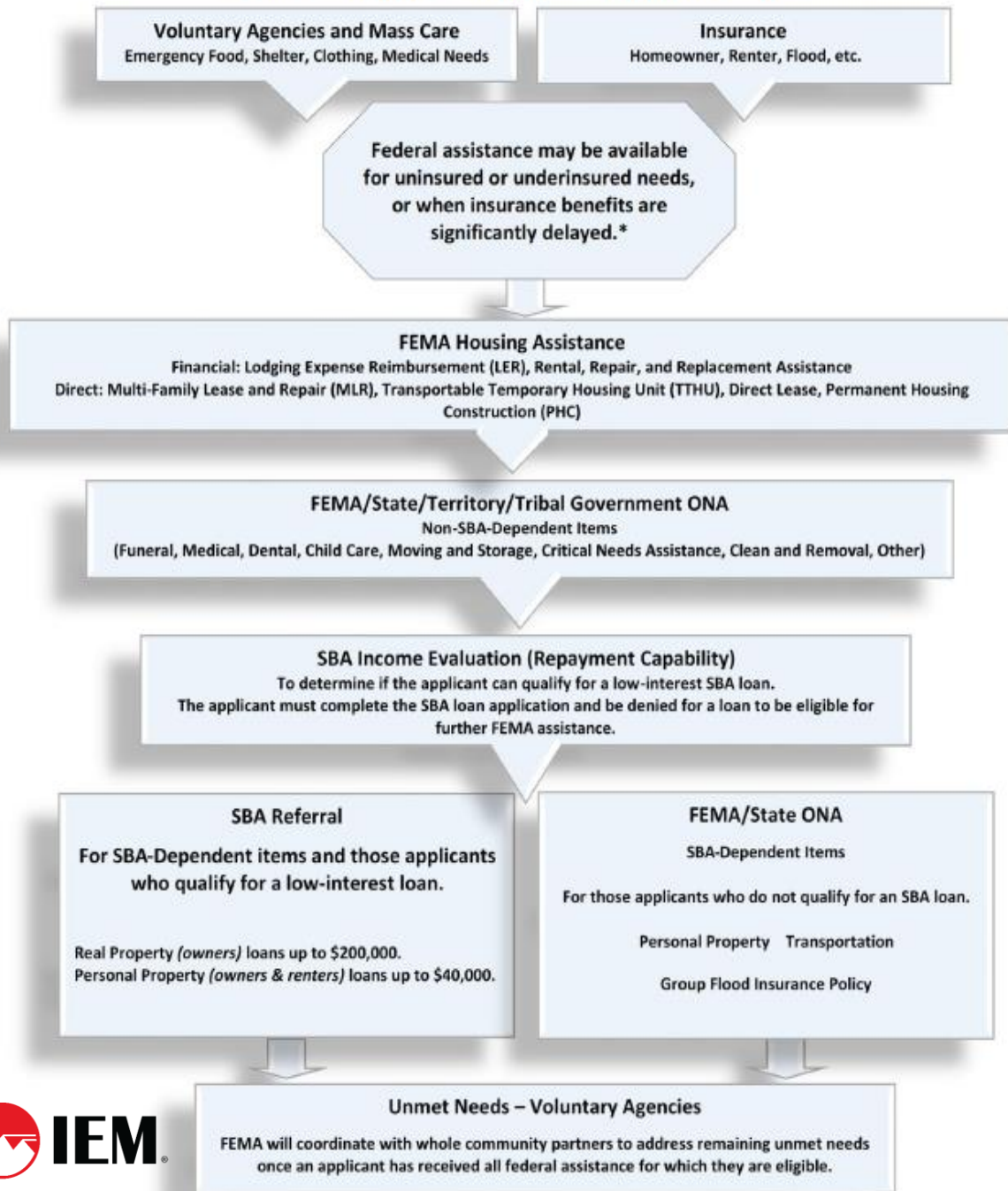
44 CFR 206.48(b)

- Final Rule published on March 21, 2019*
- Intent to provide a more objective criteria – clarify threshold for eligibility and sped the declaration process*
- Governor / Chief Executive must demonstrate they are unable to effectively respond...

Declaration Factors*

- State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability
- Uninsured Home and Personal Property Losses
- Disaster Impacted Population Profile
- Impact to Community Infrastructure
- Casualties
- Disaster Related Unemployment

Figure 2: Disaster Assistance Sequence of Delivery



Sequence of Delivery

“A clear sequence of delivery prevents duplication of benefits, maximizes available resources, and organizes efforts to help disaster survivors navigate the recovery process.”

– FEMA (IAPPG, v 1.1, p. 10)

Figure 2: Disaster Assistance Sequence of Delivery

Non-Declared Disaster Sequence of Delivery

Voluntary Organizations are present at the start and end of every disaster



What happens in the absence of Federal government disaster assistance?

- (+) States / Tribal / Territorial / Local governments refer survivors to established social service programs (if available) that may help keep them recovering – in the community
- (+) Voluntary Organizations / Faith Based Organizations step in to provide aid where they are able
- (+) Private Sector invests in community recovery (if available)
- (-) Survivors may leave the impacted area; communities are at risk
- (-) Survivors are slow to recover, and are increasingly vulnerable to subsequent disasters

What else have you seen occur?

What can we do?

Help State with Damage Assessments after Disasters

If you are in the impacted area, provide relevant information to local EM or State EM Preliminary Damage Assessment Team

Continue to provide support to impacted areas – any support is better than no support

Advocate – Members of the State Legislature need to know about the gap.

Explain what happens to people impacted by disasters – and present solutions – possibly a state recovery program for individuals

Federal representatives can also help. They can address the type and kind of assistance the Federal Government can provide

Seek allies to convey the needs of constituents

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