
Disaster Assistance: Past Perspectives and Some Considerations for the Future

Loma Prieta Commemorative
Symposium

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- Disaster Relief Act Amendment of 1974
 - Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act and Emergency Assistance Act (1988)
 - Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
 - Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (2006)
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Stafford Act Changes--PA



- Gave overall administrative responsibility to state
 - Provided for grantee (state) management costs, and allowance for grantee and subgrantee (applicant) administrative and indirect costs
 - Simplified project administration by creating small and large project designations— (\$36,000 adjusted annually by CPI— now \$63,200)
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- Funding for FEMA required hazard mitigation projects
 - Expansion of labor cost eligibility to include fringe benefits
 - Expanded eligibility for private nonprofit facilities (essential governmental services)
 - Changed applicability of current codes and standards
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Stafford Act Changes--HM



- Increased authority of State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program created with a funded administrative structure
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- Required state and local hazard mitigation planning to secure certain types of assistance
 - Defined Standard and Enhanced Plan requirements and incentives for the states
 - Created Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program
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- Public Assistance Pilot Program
 - Small project change
 - Debris removal planning incentives
 - National Disaster Housing Strategy
 - National Disaster Recovery Strategy
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- Natural Disaster Assistance Act (1974)
 - Campbell-Cortese-Torres Natural Disaster Assistance Act Amendments of 1988
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NDAA Amendments 1988



- Expanded applicant pool to include community college and school districts, and PNPs as eligible applicants
 - Established standard cost sharing– 75 percent (state)/25 percent (local)
 - Direct labor w/benefits eligible
 - Cost sharing with federal disaster assistance programs authorized (FEMA, FHWA, NRCS, etc)
 - Allowed advance of 90 percent of approved costs
 - Provided for Indirect and administrative costs
 - “other assistance deemed necessary by the Director.”
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Other State Assistance



Disaster Response Emergency
Operations Account (DREOA)–
administered by state Department of
Finance

Considerations for Future



- Require short and long term recovery planning
 - Ensure programmatic predictability and flexibility
 - Streamline program administration
 - Incentivize mitigation as part of the recovery process
 - Provide support to civic infrastructure including small businesses and PNPs
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