



Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance to state, tribal, and local government, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. We perform audits of FEMA grantees and subgrantees to determine whether costs claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. The Town of Dauphin Island, Alabama, (Town) received an award of \$2.5 million for damages resulting from Tropical Storm Ida that occurred in November 2009.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Should Deobligate \$226,096 of Unneeded Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to the Town of Dauphin Island, Alabama

What We Determined

FEMA should recover \$226,096 of unneeded Public Assistance grant funding. Although the Town generally accounted for FEMA funds on a project by project basis, as required by Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines, we identified \$226,096 of excess project funding that should be deobligated and put to better use because the funding is no longer needed to complete work under the grant. We also determined that the Town was awarded \$103,365 under two small projects for permanent repair work that had not been completed within timeframes established by regulation.

What We Recommend

We recommended that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV:

- 1) Deobligate and put to better use \$226,096 of unneeded Federal funding.
- 2) Instruct the State to closely monitor the progress of the Town's work under two small projects (Projects 27 and 28) to ensure that they are completed by the newly established deadline approved by the State.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov