



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. Erie County, New York, received an award of \$10.2 million for damages caused by heavy rains which caused major flooding that occurred on August 8 through 10, 2009.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

Erie County, New York, Generally Followed Regulations for Spending Public Assistance Grant Funds for Flooding in August 2009

What We Determined

Erie County (County) accounted for FEMA grant funds on a project-by-project basis as required by Federal regulations. However, the County did not always expend the funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. Of the \$1.4 million we reviewed, we questioned the County's:

- 1) **Unsupported Costs:** \$73,251 of unused funds not needed by the County to complete projects, should be de-obligated and put to better use.
- 2) **Ineligible Costs:** \$13,567 of administrative costs was claimed by the County, however, the County was unable to provide documentation to verify eligibility.

What We Recommend

Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region II, Regional Administrator:

- 1) De-obligate \$73,251 as unneeded project funding.
- 2) Disallow \$13,567 as unsupported costs.

For Further Information:

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