

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) appropriated \$210 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to finance grants to fire departments for construction and modification to fire stations.

With these grants, fire departments will stimulate the local economy and improve their fire fighting and emergency response needs.

DHS Response

FEMA agreed with both recommendations and will implement the improved oversight actions.

Fire Station Construction Grants Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

What We Determined

FEMA generally administered the fire station construction grants financed with Recovery Act funds according to plans and requirements. It competitively awarded 116 grants totaling \$207 million from 6,000 applications. As of September 30, 2011, FEMA reported outlays to grantees of approximately \$67 million or 32.6 % of total grant projects. For the quarter ending September 30, 2011, grantees reported creating or retaining 1,315 jobs. The report also identified steps FEMA can complete to improve its monitoring of grantee performance.

What We Recommend

The Assistant Administrator for FEMA Grant Programs ensure that:

1. The Assistance to Firefighter Program Office finalizes and implements its Programmatic Grants Monitoring Protocols and Plan for Monitoring of Fire Station Construction Grants and approves measures to monitor program performance.
2. The Regional Coordination and Oversight Branch communicates corrective actions from desk reviews to senior Grants Program Directorate leadership.

For Further Information:

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