



Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance to state, Tribal, and local governments, 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 City of Miami Beach, Florida, (City) received an award of \$8.5 million for damages related to Hurricane Wilma, which occurred in October 2005.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to the City of Miami Beach, Florida - Hurricane Wilma

What We Determined

The City did not account for large project expenditures on a project-by-project basis. We also identified \$154,922 of costs resulting from duplication of benefits, and unsupported and ineligible project charges.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Director, FEMA Region IV:

- 1) Instruct the City, for future declarations, to account for FEMA funds on a project-by-project basis.
- 2) Disallow \$154,922 of ineligible, duplicate, and unsupported costs.

For Further Information:

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