



# Role of the THIRA/SPR in the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide State Administrative Agencies (SAAs), Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) participants, stakeholders, and subject matter experts with a brief overview of the relationship between the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program and the THIRA/SPR. This document does not list every reporting requirement for EMPG Program recipients. For a complete explanation of requirements, grant recipients should review the EMPG Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the relevant grant year at <https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/emergency-management-performance-grant> and the Preparedness Grants Manual at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/manual>.

## EMPG Program Eligibility and Funding Allocations

EMPG Program eligibility and the amount of funding allotted for each state or territory is **based on legislative authority, population-share, cost-share, and the fiscal year appropriation amount**. The NOFO outlines funding allocations for each state and territory. While FEMA requires EMPG Program grant recipients to tie grant investments to support closing capability gaps or sustaining capabilities identified in the THIRA/SPR process, **the THIRA/SPR is not a factor in determining funding allocations**. For details on program-specific funding amounts, work plans, cost-share requirements, EMPG Program-specific quarterly performance reports, and other eligibility criteria, please refer to the NOFO for the relevant funding year, located at <https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/emergency-management-performance-grant>.

## Relationship between THIRA/SPR and EMPG Program Programmatic Reporting Requirements

FEMA requires EMPG Program recipients to complete the THIRA/SPR and the Biannual Strategy Implementation Report (BSIR) as directed in the Preparedness Grants Manual to ensure grant dollars are invested in allowable projects.

### ***The Role of the THIRA/SPR in the EMPG Program***

FEMA requires EMPG Program recipients to complete both the THIRA and the SPR (see **Figure 1**). The THIRA is a process that communities use to better understand their risks and set targets for building and sustaining capabilities to address those risks. Communities then use the SPR to estimate and describe their current capabilities, indicate and describe gaps between their current capabilities and targets,

and identify approaches for addressing those gaps and sustaining current capabilities. Communities also estimate and describe how they have lost, built, and sustained capability over the previous year, and what funding sources they used to build and sustain their capabilities. Communities note any gaps in the functional areas of each core capability. Since a community's THIRA/SPR assesses capabilities and resources from all funding sources, this information helps FEMA better understand the impact of all grant programs in helping communities build and sustain their capabilities.



Figure 1: The steps of the THIRA and SPR processes.



## ***Reporting Investments of Grant Funds in SPR Step 3***

EMPG Program recipients' resources must be allocated to close capability gaps or sustain capabilities identified in the SPR process and other relevant information sources<sup>1</sup> and coordinated among affected preparedness stakeholders. In SPR Step 3, states and territories indicate how they have used different funding sources to build and sustain their capabilities. This helps them and FEMA better understand the impact of grant funding and other funding sources on community efforts to build and sustain capabilities. States and territories also describe if they have used capabilities that were built and/or sustained with grant funds in a real-world incident during the reporting year. Sharing this information helps FEMA understand how states and territories are using grant funding to improve disaster outcomes.

## ***BSIR and the SPR***

In addition to the THIRA/SPR, FEMA requires EMPG Program recipients to complete the BSIR as directed in the Preparedness Grants Manual to ensure grant dollars are invested in allowable projects. The BSIR requires grant recipients to reference data in the THIRA/SPR. The purpose of the BSIR is to help recipients and FEMA manage and monitor grants effectively.

In each grant recipient's BSIR, as part of programmatic monitoring, the recipient must describe how expenditures support closing capability gaps or sustaining capabilities identified in the THIRA and SPR. FEMA uses the BSIR to understand how recipients spent grant dollars within the grant period of performance. States and territories can use project information from their BSIRs to develop future SPRs, as well. For example, they can incorporate previous projects and investments into SPR Step 1 where they describe efforts to build and sustain capability

over the past year, and document that they used EMPG Program funding to support those efforts in SPR Step 3.

## ***Standardized Programmatic Reporting in the EMPG Program Work Plan***

All EMPG Program applicants must develop and submit a Work Plan approved by their Regional Administrator. Prior to submission of the EMPG Program Work Plan, the applicant must work with the Regional Administrator or designated FEMA Regional Program Manager to ensure that regional or state priorities are addressed. Work Plans should outline the state's emergency management sustainment and enhancement efforts, including new and ongoing activities and projects, proposed for the EMPG Program period of performance. The EMPG Program Work Plan must summarize program activities in the following areas:

- **Planning:** The EMPG Program Work Plan should provide a baseline for determining potential threats and hazards, required capabilities, and required resources.
- **Organization:** EMPG Program funds may be used for all-hazards emergency management operations, staffing, and other day-to-day activities in support of emergency management.
- **Equipment:** Allowable EMPG Program equipment categories are listed at [www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list](http://www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list)
- **Training:** EMPG Program funds may be used for a range of emergency management-related training activities and should reflect efforts to address training capabilities gaps identified through the THIRA/SPR process.
- **Exercise:** Exercises conducted with grant funds should test and evaluate performance towards meeting capability targets established in a jurisdiction's THIRA for the core capabilities needed to address its greatest risks.

<sup>1</sup> Other relevant information sources can include: 1) after-action reports (AARs) following exercises or real-world events; 2) audit and monitoring findings; 3) Hazard Mitigation Plans; and/or 4) other deliberate planning products.