

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Deanne B. Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

As strong supporters of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), we want to see this vital Federal support reach as many at-risk nonprofits as funding will allow. Recently, concerns have been brought to our attention about changes to how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will score NSGP applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. As such, we are writing to learn more about the new scoring criteria and its impact on the program.

Since the release of the FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity, concerns have been raised about FEMA's plans to incorporate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's social vulnerability index (SVI) in scoring NSGP applications. It is our strong view that, with the \$70 million funding increase Congress approved for FY 2022, FEMA should be able to bring at-risk nonprofits located in underserved and underrepresented communities into the program, while ensuring availability of funding to at-risk nonprofits not located in underserved or underrepresented communities.

At this time, we are seeking some insights into the NSGP scoring criteria and request the following information by June 10, 2022:

- (1) A description of the NSGP scoring process for FY 2022 and how it differs from FY 2021.
- (2) An explanation of FEMA's process for modifying the NSGP application scoring to incorporate SVI.
- (3) Information on how many points applications receive for SVI status and whether there are there other plus or minus factors taken into account.
- (4) Information on the role State Administrative Agencies play in the scoring of NSGP applications.
- (5) Details on the guidance provided by FEMA to States to develop their prioritized list of investment justifications.
- (6) Information on how FEMA ensures that all applicants receive full and fair consideration, particularly in light of the introduction of SVI into the scoring process.

- (7) An analysis of how FEMA expects past and current applicants, particularly nonprofits in New Jersey and Mississippi, to be impacted given the inclusion of SVI to the scoring process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell Jr.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress