

117TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
117-144 }

FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND
EFFICIENCY ACT

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

TO ACCOMPANY

S. 3092

TO AMEND THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF
AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT TO IMPROVE THE
PROVISION OF CERTAIN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES



SEPTEMBER 12, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

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FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 3092]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 3092) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

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I. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

S. 3092, the *FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency (FIRE) Act of 2022*, makes changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster preparedness and response efforts are better addressing wildfires and their impacts on communities. The FIRE Act will require FEMA to study the use of red flag warnings to pre-deploy resources before potential wildfire disasters occur, report on the use of relocation assistance for wildfire risk, and require FEMA to provide culturally

competent crisis counseling and case managers to ensure that underserved and disadvantaged communities receive equity when accessing federal disaster assistance. This bill would also require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue a report on any gaps on responding to wildfires, ensure that tribal governments can access assistance to upgrade their emergency operation centers, require FEMA to prioritize survivors of disasters when selling portable housing units, and direct FEMA to study how to improve housing assistance for low-income residents who live in multi-family housing or lack proof of ownership documentation. It also requires FEMA to brief the appropriate Congressional committees on multiple topics, including increasing the current cap for emergency declarations, the Agency's work helping communities recover from wildfires, and efforts to use state or local housing solutions after a disaster. Finally, the FIRE Act would require FEMA to work with the National Academy of Sciences to study potential solutions to address the lack of available and affordable wildfire insurance.

II. BACKGROUND AND THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Since 2000, annual averages of 70,600 wildfires have burned 7 million acres of land across the United States per year. This figure is more than double the average annual acreage burned in the 1990s (3.3 million acres), although a greater number of fires occurred annually in the 1990s (78,600 average).¹ Multiple studies have found that climate change has already led to an increase in wildfire season length, wildfire frequency, and burned areas due to factors such as warmer springs, longer summer dry seasons, and drier soils and vegetation.²

In response to the increased wildfire severity across the country, state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) governments have led efforts to manage and provide assistance during and following a disaster. The role of the federal government, as described in the Stafford Act, is to "supplement the efforts and available resources of states, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering."³ As a result, SLTT governments solely manage disaster response and recovery, except in severe circumstances where federal assistance is needed to supplement those efforts. As devastating wildfires have affected communities more often in recent years, the federal government has increasingly aided SLTTs in responding to wildfires.

When a state faces a wildfire disaster, the governor of the affected state must request that the President of the United States formally invoke the Stafford Act in order to utilize the resources and grants that FEMA is authorized to provide.⁴ A major disaster or emergency declaration allows for a range of federal assistance programs to be made available to state and local governments, private nonprofit organizations, and individuals through FEMA and other federal agencies. FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program makes limited assistance available to SLTT gov-

¹ Congressional Research Service, *Wildfire Statistics* (IF10244) (Oct. 4, 2021).

² Environmental Protection Agency, *Climate Change Indicators: Wildfires* (Apr. 2021) (<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-wildfires>).

³ 42 U.S.C. § 5122(2).

⁴ Ron Nixon, *What FEMA Is Doing, and Not Doing, in Response to California's Fires*, New York Times (Nov. 22, 2018) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/22/us/politics/fema-california-wildfires.html>).

ernments for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.⁵ Although FEMA has primarily responded to other types of disasters in the past, such as hurricanes and floods, the rapidly increasing number of wildfires that are affecting communities in the country has forced FEMA to respond to more of these events.

In 2019, GAO issued a report that highlighted FEMA’s wildfire response performance and assessed where the Agency can improve in its response to these disasters.⁷ Challenges underscored by GAO included the onerous documentation requirements for FEMA’s Public Assistance grant program and difficulties locating alternative housing for survivors whose homes were completely destroyed.⁸ GAO also found that FEMA’s lack of experience with large-scale wildfires caused challenges in identifying response and recovery needs.⁹ For example, GAO testified in October 2019 before Congressional committees that “the unique challenge of removing wildfire debris led to confusion over soil excavation standards and led to over-excavation of some homeowners’ lots, lengthening the recovery process.”¹⁰ As a result, GAO recommended that FEMA assess operations to identify any additional updates to its management controls—such as policies, procedures, or training—that could enhance future response and recovery from large-scale and severe wildfires.¹¹

S. 3092 helps address these shortfalls by ensuring that FEMA’s disaster preparedness and response efforts better address the unique nature of wildfires and their impacts on communities. Among other things, the bill would ensure cultural competency for FEMA’s counseling and case management services, help to study the use of relocation assistance in fire prone areas, and prioritize survivors’ housing needs after disasters. Finally, the bill would ensure equity of assistance for tribal communities and tribal governments for grants to emergency operation centers, and examine ways to speed up the federal assistance process and improve the availability of fire insurance.

III. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Senator Alex Padilla (D–CA) introduced S. 3092, the FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022, on October 27, 2021, with Senator Ron Wyden (D–OR). The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Senators Merkley (D–OR), Feinstein (D–CA), Murray (D–WA), and Rosen (D–NV) later joined as cosponsors.

⁵ Federal Emergency Management Agency, Fire Management Assistance Grants (<https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/fire-management-assistance>) (accessed Mar. 22, 2022).

⁶ Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Declared Disasters* (<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations>) (accessed Feb. 25, 2022).

⁷ Government Accountability Office, *Wildfire Disasters: FEMA Could Take Additional Actions to Address Unique Response and Recovery Challenges* (GAO–20–5) (October 2019).

⁸ *Id.* at 19–20; 21–23.

⁹ *Id.* at 24–25.

¹⁰ House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, Submitted for the Record of Chris P. Currie, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office, *FEMA Priorities for 2022: Stakeholder Perspectives*, 117th Cong. (Feb. 16, 2022) (H. Hrg. 117–XX) at 9.

¹¹ *Id.* at 9.

The Committee considered S. 3092 at a business meeting on February 2, 2022. During the business meeting, Senator Padilla offered a substitute amendment that added a requirement that the FEMA Administrator submit a report to Congress on the use of relocation assistance required by sections 203, 204, and 406 of the Stafford Act. The substitute amendment was adopted by voice vote *en bloc*. Senators present for the vote were: Peters, Carper, Hassan, Sinema, Rosen, Padilla, Ossoff, Portman, Lankford, Scott, and Hawley. Senator Scott offered an amendment to strike the authorization of appropriations needed to carry out the wildfire insurance study by the National Academy of Sciences. Senator Scott's amendment was adopted by voice vote *en bloc*. Senators present for the vote were: Peters, Carper, Hassan, Sinema, Rosen, Padilla, Ossoff, Portman, Lankford, Scott, and Hawley.

The bill, as amended, was ordered reported favorably by voice vote *en bloc*. Senators Peters, Carper, Hassan, Sinema, Rosen, Padilla, Ossoff, Portman, Lankford, Scott, and Hawley were present for the vote. Consistent with Committee Rule 3(G), the Committee reports the bill with a technical amendment by mutual agreement of the Chairman and Ranking Member.

IV. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE BILL, AS REPORTED

Section 1. Short title

This section designates the name of the bill as the "FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022" or the "FIRE Act."

Section 2. Definitions

This section includes definitions of the terms "administrator," "agency," "appropriate committees of Congress," "emergency," "Indian tribal government," "local government," "State," and "major disaster."

Section 3. Report on relocation assistance

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to submit a report regarding the use of relocation assistance 180 days after enactment of this bill. The report must include information regarding fire risk-related projects, benefits or disadvantages of relocation assistance, how FEMA may optimize relocation assistance, the cost-effectiveness of mitigation measures and relocation assistance when an applicant applies to move from a high-risk to a medium or low-risk area with respect to wildfires, the need for the federal government to produce maps with wildfire zones, and the need for more data regarding wildfires.

Section 4. Red flag warnings and predisaster actions

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to conduct a study of, develop recommendations for, and initiate a process for the use of Red Flag Warnings within one year of this bill's enactment, and transmit the results of the study to Congress.

Section 5. Assistance for wildfire damage

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to brief Congress 180 days after the enactment of the legislation about the assistance

FEMA provides in response to wildfires and the damage that results from wildfires.

Section 6. GAO report on gaps

This section requires GAO to submit a report to Congress regarding the gaps in FEMA's wildfire hazard policies and the speed by which disaster response, including grants, is initiated.

Section 7. Crisis counseling cultural competency

This section amends Section 416 of the Stafford Act to require that individuals providing professional counseling services to survivors of major disasters be trained to address cultural competency, respectful care practices, and the impact of major disasters on socio-economically disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Section 8. Case management cultural competency

This section amends Section 426 of the Stafford Act to require that the individual providing case management services to survivors of major disasters be trained to address cultural competency, respectful care practices, and the impact of major disasters on socio-economically disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Section 9. Study and plan for disaster housing assistance

This section requires the FEMA Administrator, within 180 days of the bill's enactment, to conduct a study and develop a plan to address the unique housing challenges that are a result of wildfire disasters. The FEMA Administrator must also make recommendations for legislative changes to better meet the housing needs of disaster survivors. 30 days after the submission of the report and recommendations required by this section, the FEMA Administrator is required to brief Congress on the findings and recommendations required by this section.

Section 10. Reimbursement

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to brief Congress 180 days after the enactment of this bill regarding the extent to which FEMA is using housing solutions proposed by a state or local government to reduce the time or cost required to implement housing solutions after a major disaster.

Section 11. Wildfire insurance study by the national academies

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to work with the National Academy of Sciences, State insurance regulations, consumer organizations, representatives of the insurance industry, policyholders, and other appropriate stakeholders to conduct a study of insurance plans for wildfires, the ability of states, communities, and individuals to mitigate wildfire risks, the effects of land use policies and building codes on solutions to wildfires, the role of wildfire insurance providers, incentives for wildfire risk mitigation efforts, and the state of modeling and mapping wildfire risks and solutions.

Section 12. Increased cap for emergency declaration based on regional cost of living

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to brief Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this legislation regarding the benefits and disadvantages of establishing a maximum amount for assistance provided for an emergency that is based on the cost of living in the region in which the emergency occurs.

Section 13. Facilitating disposal of temporary transportable housing units to survivors

This section amends Section 408(d)(2)(B)(i) of the Stafford Act to give priority to disaster survivors who have suffered significant property loss in the purchase of temporary transportable housing units.

Section 14. Deadline on code enforcement and management cost eligibility

This section amends Section 406(a)(2)(D) of the Stafford Act by increasing the period during which base and overtime wages for extra hires are implemented for code enforcement and management cost eligibility from 180 days to one year after a major disaster has been declared.

Section 15. Permit applications for tribal upgrades to emergency operations centers

This section amends Section 614(a) of the Stafford Act by inserting the phrase “Indian tribal governments” to the text to ensure that tribal governments can also access assistance to upgrade their emergency operation centers in equal standing with state and local governments.

V. EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT

Pursuant to the requirements of paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee has considered the regulatory impact of this bill and determined that the bill will have no regulatory impact within the meaning of the rules. The Committee agrees with the Congressional Budget Office’s statement that the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

VI. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, August 12, 2022.

Hon. GARY PETERS,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 3092, the FIRE Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jon Sperl.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

At a Glance			
S. 3092, FIRE Act			
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 2, 2022			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	28	69
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	28	69
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	3	3
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The bill would:

- Authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse local governments for costs incurred to enforce building codes for up to one year after a disaster is declared
 - Authorize FEMA to cover the costs of emergency operations centers for tribal governments
 - Require FEMA and other federal agencies to conduct several reports and studies, mostly related to wildfires
- Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from:
- Providing additional assistance from the Disaster Relief Fund for specified activities
 - Increasing administrative costs for FEMA and other agencies to conduct studies and produce reports

Bill summary: S. 3092 would authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to use the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) to reimburse costs incurred by local governments to enforce building codes, construct emergency operations centers for tribal governments, and provide cultural competency training for crisis counselors.

In addition, S. 3092 would require FEMA and other federal agencies to conduct several reports and studies, mostly related to wildfires.

Estimated Federal cost: The estimated budgetary effect of S. 3092 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF S. 3092

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—												
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2022– 2027	2022– 2032
	Increases in Direct Spending												
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	4	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	28	69
	Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation												
Estimated Authorization	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Estimated Outlays	0	2	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

* = between zero and \$500,000.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted late in fiscal year 2022 and that FEMA will begin implementing its requirements in 2023. CBO's estimate of outlays is based on historical patterns of spending for similar FEMA programs, as well as information provided by the agency.

Direct spending: Disaster assistance for programs authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is paid from the DRF. CBO expects that enacting several provisions in the bill would expand the use of previously appropriated balances from that fund, some of which CBO estimates would be unspent over the 2022–2032 period. As a result, those provisions would increase direct spending. In total, CBO estimates that enacting S. 3092 would increase direct spending by \$69 million over the 2022–2032 period. That higher spending would be offset by reductions in spending after 2032.

Expanded Period for Covering Code Enforcement. Section 14 would authorize FEMA to reimburse state and local governments for the costs of implementing and enforcing building codes for up to one year after a disaster is declared. Under current law, those governments may only be reimbursed for costs incurred during the first six months. In 2020 and 2021, FEMA reimbursed about \$4 million of such costs annually.

Using information from FEMA, CBO expects that increasing the window to one year would roughly double the amount of inspection costs that FEMA reimburses. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting section 14 would increase direct spending by about \$5 million annually, totaling \$51 million over the 2022–2032 period.

Emergency Operations Centers for Tribal Governments. Section 15 would authorize FEMA to cover the costs of equipping, upgrading, and constructing emergency operations centers (EOCs) operated by tribal governments. Under current law, FEMA may only cover such costs for state and local governments.

In 2020 and 2021, FEMA awarded \$50 million to state and local governments to fund 77 such centers, at an average cost of about \$650,000. CBO expects that, under S. 3092, FEMA would gradually increase the number of awards provided for tribal EOCs—from 2 centers in 2023 to 5 centers by 2032. In total, CBO estimates enacting that section would increase direct spending by \$17 million over the 2022–2032 period.

Training in Cultural Competency for Crisis Counselors. Sections 7 and 8 would require FEMA to ensure that professionals who provide crisis counseling and case management services are trained in cultural competency when interacting with victims of disasters.

FEMA reimburses local governments for the costs of providing those services, which are typically delivered by mental health and social service agencies. CBO expects that the additional costs of that training would increase the eligible costs that local governments submit to FEMA for reimbursement.

In 2021, FEMA provided about \$30 million for crisis counseling services. Using information from the agency, CBO estimates that implementing the requirements would increase the costs of providing counseling by less than \$500,000 annually and a total of \$1 million over the 2022–2032 period.

Spending subject to appropriation: S. 3092 would require FEMA and other federal agencies to publish several reports and studies, mostly related to wildfires. Based on the cost of similar reports and studies, CBO estimates that implementing those requirements (discussed below) would cost \$3 million over the 2022–2027 period. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The bill would require FEMA to contract with the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) to study the availability of wildfire insurance, the state of modeling and mapping wildfire risk, and several other topics related to wildfires. Using information about the cost of similar studies performed by NAS, CBO estimates implementing that requirement would cost about \$2 million over the 2022–2027 period.

In addition, S. 3092 would require:

- The U.S. Fire Administration and the National Weather Service to study the use of red flag warnings and develop recommendations for improving procedures to respond to wildfires;
- FEMA to conduct a study and on how to improve the administration of housing assistance to disaster survivors who lack the ability to document ownership of residences, and to develop a plan to meet their needs;
- FEMA to report on the use of relocation assistance to mitigate the damages caused by wildfires, analyze the cost-effectiveness of that assistance relative to other mitigation options, and provide policy recommendations; and
- The Government Accountability Office to report on gaps in FEMA’s wildfire policies and recommend how to improve the speed and effectiveness of the agency’s responses.

Based on information from those agencies about the costs of similar studies and reports, CBO estimates implementing each requirement would cost less than \$500,000, and that those costs would total about \$1 million over the 2022–2027 period. CBO expects most of those costs would be incurred in 2023 and 2024.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 1.

Increase in long-term deficits: CBO estimates that enacting S. 3092 would not increase on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033.

Mandates: None.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Jon Sperl; Mandates: Rachel Austin.

Estimate reviewed by: Justin Humphrey, Chief, Finance, Housing, and Education Cost Estimates Unit; H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

VII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows: (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in brackets, new matter is printed in *italic*, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

UNITED STATES CODE

* * * * *

TITLE 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

* * * * *

CHAPTER 68—DISASTER RELIEF

* * * * *

Subchapter IV—Major Disaster Assistance Programs

* * * * *

SEC. 5172. REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED FACILITIES

(a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) * * *

(2) ASSOCIATED EXPENSES.—For the purpose of this section, associated expenses shall include—

(A) * * *

(B) * * *

(C) * * *

(D) base and overtime wages for extra hires to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of adopted building codes for a period of not more than **[180 days]** *1 year* after the major disaster is declared.

* * * * *

SEC. 5174. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS

(a) * * *

(b) * * *

(c) * * *

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE

(1) * * *

(2) DISPOSAL OF UNITS.—

(A) * * *

(B) OTHER METHODS OF DISPOSAL.—If not disposed of under subparagraph (A), a temporary housing unit purchased under this section by the President for the purpose of housing disaster victims—

(i) may be sold to any person, *with priority given to a survivor of a major disaster who suffered a property loss as a result of the major disaster*; or

(ii) * * *

* * * * *

SEC. 5183. CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The President* **[The President]** is authorized to provide professional counseling services, including financial assistance to State or local agencies or private mental health organizations to provide such services or training of disaster workers, to victims of major disasters in order to relieve mental health problems caused or aggravated by such major disaster or its aftermath.

(b) *CULTURAL COMPETENCY.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address—*

- (1) *cultural competency and respectful care practices; and*
- (2) *impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.*

* * * * *

SEC. 5189d. CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The President* **[The President]** is authorized to provide case management services, including financial assistance to State or local government agencies or private organizations to provide such services or training of disaster workers, to victims of major disasters to identify and address unmet needs.

(b) *CULTURAL COMPETENCY.— The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address—*

- (1) *cultural competency and respectful care practices; and*
- (2) *impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.*

* * * * *

Subchapter IV—B—Emergency Preparedness

* * * * *

PART A—POWERS AND DUTIES

* * * * *

SEC. 5196c. GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS

(a) *GRANTS.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may make grants to States and Indian tribal governments under this subchapter for equipping, upgrading, and constructing State and local emergency operations centers.*

(b) * * *

* * * * *

