

NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM ACT OF 2024

DECEMBER 5, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 9750]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 9750) to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Natural Disaster Recovery Program.
- Sec. 3. Unmet needs assistance.
- Sec. 4. Further considerations for disaster declarations.
- Sec. 5. Repair and rebuilding.
- Sec. 6. FEMA Emergency Home Repair Program.
- Sec. 7. Appeals of individuals and households program benefits.
- Sec. 8. Report to Congress on major disaster declarations.
- Sec. 9. Review by Comptroller General.
- Sec. 10. GAO study on timing of closing out disaster recovery.

SEC. 2. NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end of title IV the following:

“SEC. 431. NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

“(a) NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY RESERVE FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the Natural Disaster Recovery Reserve Fund (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).

“(2) AMOUNTS.—The Fund shall consist of—

“(A) any amounts appropriated, and deposited in the Fund, for a specific major disaster declared under section 401; and

“(B) amounts deposited into the Fund pursuant to paragraph (4).

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available, pursuant to a declaration of a major disaster—

“(A) to States and Indian tribal governments for unmet need related to a major disaster is declared under section 401; and

“(B) with respect to grantees that have been allocated assistance for such unmet need, for technical assistance and capacity building under subsection (c)(2) to facilitate planning and increase capacity to administer assistance under this section.

“(4) UNUSED AMOUNTS.—If any amounts made available for assistance under this section to grantees remain unexpended on the earlier of—

“(A) the date that the grantee of such amounts notifies the President that the grantee has completed all activities; or

“(B) except as provided in paragraph (5), the expiration of the 6-year period beginning when the President obligates such amounts to the grantee, the President shall transfer such unexpended amounts to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund, except that the President may permit the grantee to retain amounts needed to close out the grant.

“(5) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF FUNDS.—The period under paragraph (4)(B) may be extended by not more than 4 years if, before the expiration of such 6-year period, the President waives this requirement and submits a written justification for such waiver to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that specifies the period of such extension.

“(b) ASSESSMENT OF UNMET NEED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To assess unmet need with respect to a major disaster under section, not later than 90 days after the declaration of such a disaster, the President shall coordinate with other Federal agencies, as determined appropriate and including the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to obtain data on all recovery needs and the amount of such recovery needs that are unmet, including—

“(A) all data on damage caused by the disaster;

“(B) information on how any Federal assistance provided in connection with the disaster has been expended;

“(C) information on the effect of the disaster on education, transportation capabilities and dependence, housing needs, health care capacity, and displacement of persons; and

“(D) the extent of the unmet need remaining in relation to such disaster.

“(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall make publicly available the data described in paragraph (1) for any major disaster for which assistance is provided from the Fund under this section.

“(3) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the President and any recipient of funds under this section shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that personally identi-

able information regarding recipients of assistance provided under this section is not made publicly available by any agency with which information is shared pursuant to this subsection.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribal government receiving a grant under this section may use not more than 13 percent of the amount of grant funds received, or within such other percentage as may be established pursuant to subparagraph (B), for administrative costs, including costs related to audits, reviews, oversight, evaluation, and investigations.

“(2) DISCRETION TO ESTABLISH SLIDING SCALE.—The President may establish a series of percentage limitations on the amount of grant funds received that may be used by a grantee for administrative costs, but only if—

“(A) such percentage limitations are based on the amount of grant funds received by a grantee; and

“(B) such series provides that the percentage that may be used is lower for grantees receiving a greater amount of grant funds and such percentage that may be used is higher for grantees receiving a lesser amount of grant funds.

“(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; CAPACITY BUILDING.—From funds made available for use under this section, the President may provide—

“(A) necessary technical assistance to grantees to ensure grantees are compliant with Federal law; and

“(B) capacity building assistance, including assistance regarding contracting and procurement processes, including providing solicitation and contractual templates that conform to Federal requirements for use by grantees.

“(d) ALLOCATION, PROCESS, AND PROCEDURES; COORDINATION.—

“(1) ALLOCATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall allocate funds under this section proportionally to grantees based on their level of unmet need as determined under subsection (b).

“(B) GRANTEE USE OF FUNDS.—Each grantee—

“(i) shall be solely responsible for determining how funds provided under this section are prioritized and expended; and

“(ii) shall not be required to provide an action or spending plan to the President before or after funds are allocated.

“(C) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding section 312, a loan shall not—

“(i) be considered a duplication of benefits with funds provided by a Federal agency; or

“(ii) limit or otherwise impact the ability of a recipient to receive any other Federal assistance.

“(2) PROCEDURE FOR PROVISION OF FUNDS.—An entity awarded a grant under this section shall be provided an initial amount that equals 50 percent of total grant amount allocated under paragraph (1). To be eligible for the remaining 50 percent of the allocation, a grantee shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Inspector General of the United States a report containing—

“(A) a detailed description of how such amount was spent; and

“(B) a certification from an auditor of the State or Indian tribal government that none of the funds were wasted or used inappropriately.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Each State and Indian tribal government that receives funds under this section shall establish or adhere to existing guidelines for procurement processes and procedures and require that subgrantees—

“(A) provide for full and open competition and require cost or price analysis;

“(B) specify methods of procurement and their applicability, but not allow cost-plus-a-percentage-of cost or percentage-of-construction-cost methods of procurement;

“(C) include standards of conduct governing employees engaged in the award or administration of contracts; and

“(D) ensure that all purchase orders and contracts include any clauses required by Federal statute, Executive order, or implementing regulation.

“(e) FUNDING.—Any funds provided under this section—

“(1) shall supplement and not supplant any other assistance provided by the President or any other Federal agency in response to a major disaster; and

“(2) may not be considered a duplication of assistance.

“(f) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—Any Federal agency or recipient of funds received under this section that fund or use funds to supplement funds provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency.

“(g) BEST PRACTICES.—The President shall identify best practices for grantees on issues including developing action plans, establishing financial controls, building grantee technical and administrative capacity, procurement, and use of grant funds as local match for other sources of Federal funding. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the President shall publish a compilation of such identified best practices and share with all relevant grantees to facilitate a more efficient and effective disaster recovery process.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) STATE AUDITOR.—The term ‘State auditor’ means the individual selected by the Governor or head of an Indian tribal government to submit a certification in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

“(2) UNMET NEED.—The term ‘unmet need’—

“(A) means any necessary expenses for activities related to disaster relief, resiliency, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, mitigation, and economic revitalization related to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401; and

“(B) may include—

“(i) any unresourced item, support, or assistance that has been assessed and verified as necessary for a survivor to recover from a major disaster, including food, clothing, shelter, first aid, emotional and spiritual care, household items, home repair, or rebuilding; and

“(ii) cleaning and removing debris from rivers, creeks, streams, and ditches.”

(b) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available by an appropriations Act that provide funding for any activity not authorized by law for the program established under section 431 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as added by this Act) may be expended.

SEC. 3. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 432. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In any major disaster, the Governor or the Chief Executive of the Indian tribal government may request a grant from the President to provide assistance to meet unmet needs resulting from a major disaster.

“(b) FUNDING.—

“(1) AMOUNT OF FUNDING.—The President may set aside from the Disaster Relief Fund, with respect to each major disaster, an amount equal to 10 percent of the estimated aggregate amount of the grants to be made pursuant to sections 406 and 408 of the major disaster in order to provide technical and financial assistance under this section and such amounts shall be deemed to be related to activities carried out pursuant to major disasters under this Act.

“(2) ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—Not later than 180 days after each major disaster declared pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggregate amount of grants for purposes of paragraph (1) shall be determined by the President and such estimated amount need not be reduced, increased, or changed due to variations in estimates.

“(3) NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.—The amount set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce the amounts otherwise made available for sections 403, 406, 407, 408, 410, 416, and 428 under this Act.

“(c) UNMET NEEDS.—A State or Indian tribal government may use unmet needs grants to provide assistance, in addition to other assistance made available under this Act, for the following unmet needs resulting from a major disaster:

“(1) Disaster-related home repair and rebuilding financial assistance to families for permanent housing purposes, including in conjunction with eligible expenditures under section 408.

“(2) Disaster-related unmet needs of families who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from other sources.

“(3) Other disaster-related services that alleviate human suffering and promote the well-being of disaster victims.

“(4) Economic and business activities (including food and agriculture) after a disaster to implement post-disaster economic recovery measures, including planning and technical assistance for long-term economic recovery plans, infrastruc-

ture improvements, business or infrastructure financing, market or industry research, and other activities authorized under a comprehensive economic development strategy.

“(d) ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after receipt of funds and every 6 months thereafter until all such funds are expended, each State or Indian tribal government receiving such funds shall submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

“(A) the criteria established for determining how the funds are spent;

“(B) the allocation of such funds; and

“(C) the process for public notice and comment.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State or Indian tribal government that receives funds under this section may expend not more than 5 percent of the amount of such funds for the administrative costs of providing financial assistance to individuals and households in the State.”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In making recommendations to the President regarding the declaration of a major disaster or emergency pursuant to section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191) or the proposed non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out activities with assistance provided under such Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall give greater weight and consideration to severe local impact resulting from such disaster or emergency and, in the 5-year period preceding such disaster or emergency, whether multiple other disasters or emergencies have occurred in the affected area.

(b) REVISIONS TO GUIDANCE, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall take such actions as are necessary to revise any policies, guidance, or regulations of the Agency to implement subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the implementation of this section and shall include in such report a description of—

(1) changes made to guidance, policies, or regulations pursuant to subsection (b); and

(2) the number of major disasters and emergencies that have been declared pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act based on the criteria described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) REPAIRS.—

“(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—The President may provide financial assistance for the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a major disaster.

“(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide direct assistance to individuals and households who are unable to make use of financial assistance under subparagraph (A) and when there is a lack of available resources, for—

“(I) the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a disaster; and

“(II) eligible hazard mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood and future damage to such residences, utilities, and infrastructure.

“(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of assistance under this subparagraph shall not be eligible for assistance under paragraph (1), unless otherwise determined by the Administrator.

“(iii) COORDINATION WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Assistance allowed under this paragraph may be used in coordination with other sources for the repair and rebuilding of an owner-occupied residence.

- “(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and
- (2) in paragraph (4) by striking “in cases in which” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “if the President considers it a cost effective alternative to other housing solutions, including the costs associated with temporary housing provided under this section, and long-term rebuilding costs associated with section 431.”.
- (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—
- (1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and inserting “damaged by a major disaster”; and
- (2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting “damaged by a major disaster”.
- (c) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. FEMA EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b(a)) is amended—
- (1) in paragraph (3)—
- (A) in subparagraph (I) by striking “and” at the end;
- (B) in subparagraph (J) by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and
- (C) by adding at the end the following:
- “(K) minor repairs up to habitability of owner-occupied homes damaged by the disaster in order for survivors to safely shelter in place, subject to the availability of appropriations.”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:
- “(5) SHELTERING AND HOUSING OPTIONS.—Not later than 15 days after a declaration of a major disaster, the Federal coordinating officer shall identify all sheltering and housing options available under this section or section 408 to a State Governor, or the designated State coordinating officer.
- “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term ‘minor repairs up to habitability’ means the minimum standards for permanent housing described in section 576.403(c) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).”.
- (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue final regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 7. APPEALS OF INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM BENEFITS.

- (a) PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—Clauses (iii) and (iv) of section 408(c)(1)(B) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(1)(B)) are amended by striking “18-month period” and inserting “24-month period”.
- (b) APPEALS.—The Administrator shall revise section 206.115 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide to any applicant who appeals a determination of eligibility of assistance—
- (1) any documentation used to make such determination, including any inspection documents that exist;
- (2) a description of—
- (A) the reasons for such determination; and
- (B) recommended steps that could be taken to remedy a determination of ineligibility, including, as applicable, a list of additional documentation that the applicant may provide; and
- (3) any inspection documents that exist not later than 10 days after the completion of the inspection.
- (c) APPLICABILITY.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall apply to funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS.

- Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing the following information with respect to each major disaster declared pursuant to section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) during the 5-year period preceding such date of enactment:
- (1) The process used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine individual household need.

(2) An itemization of the most common reasons for denial of individual and household assistance pursuant to section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174).

(3) The rate of appeals of denial of such assistance.

(4) The amount of time the Agency takes to issue a decision regarding eligibility for individual assistance, disaggregated by each such major disaster.

(5) Information on the use of Disaster Legal Services and the number of applicants who were eligible for such services.

(6) The total number of Disaster Legal Services volunteers as of such date of enactment.

(7) The number of such volunteers who were activated for each such major disaster.

(8) The amount of time taken after the declaration of each such major disaster to set up disaster recovery centers that provide access to individual assistance.

(9) The number of disaster recovery centers opened for each such major disaster.

(10) The process used for selecting the location of such disaster recovery centers.

(11) The average amount of time disaster recovery centers remained open.

(12) The average amount of time individual survivors spend at such centers.

(13) A description of outreach efforts in low-income, rural, and underserved communities regarding the availability of assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

SEC. 9. REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a review of the fiscal controls of States that receive assistance under section 432 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as added by section 3; and

(2) make recommendations regarding the program established under such section to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 10. GAO STUDY ON TIMING OF CLOSING OUT DISASTER RECOVERY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on how long it takes the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to officially close out each major disaster declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) pursuant to section 705 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5205).

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 9750, as amended, is to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 9750, as amended, consolidates Federal disaster assistance programs under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and ensures that unmet needs after a major disaster are coordinated and managed under one agency. H.R. 9750, as amended, amends the *Stafford Act* to increase FEMA's ability to repair and rebuild homes damaged by a qualifying disaster and improve Congressional oversight of FEMA's disaster recovery programs.

H.R. 9750, as amended, establishes a fund at the Department of the Treasury to be administered by FEMA for long-term recovery after a major disaster. H.R. 9750, as amended, directs the President to provide ten percent of estimated disaster funding for unmet needs to states or Indian tribal governments within 30 days of a disaster declaration. FEMA is required to update its procedures on

how the Agency makes disaster declaration recommendations to the President and is authorized to provide temporary repairs and sheltering assistance to homes impacted by disasters.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of rule XIII, clause 3(c)(6)(A) of the 118th Congress, the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 9750:

On September 19, 2023, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled, “*FEMA: The Current State of Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery.*”¹ The Subcommittee received testimony from the Honorable Deanne Criswell, Administrator, FEMA.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND CONSIDERATION

H.R. 9750 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on September 23, 2024, by Mr. David Rouzer of North Carolina and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Within the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R. 9750 was referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9750 on September 25, 2024.

The Committee considered H.R. 9750 on September 25, 2024, and ordered the measure to be reported to the House with a favorable recommendation, with amendment, by recorded vote of 33 yeas to 28 nays.

The following amendments were offered: An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 9750 offered by Mr. Rouzer of North Carolina, was AGREED TO by voice vote.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against.

The vote was as follows:

Vote: 59.

Final passage: H.R. 9750, as amended.

Yea 33; Nay 28.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Graves of MO	Y	Mr. Larsen of WA	N
Mr. Crawford	Y	<i>Ms. Norton</i>	N
Mr. Webster of FL	Y	Mrs. Napolitano	N
Mr. Massie	Mr. Cohen	N
Mr. Perry	Y	Mr. Garamendi
Mr. Babin	Y	Mr. Johnson of GA	N
Mr. Graves of LA	Y	Mr. Carson	N
Mr. Rouzer	Y	Ms. Titus	N

¹*FEMA: The Current State of Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery: Hearing Before the H. Comm. On Transp. And Infrastructure, 118th Cong. (Sept. 19, 2023).*

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Bost	Y	Mr. Huffman	N
Mr. LaMalfa	Y	Ms. Brownley	N
Mr. Westerman	Y	Ms. Wilson of FL	N
Mr. Mast	Y	Mr. DeSaulnier	N
Mrs. González-Colón	Y	Mr. Carbajal	N
Mr. Stauber	Y	Mr. Stanton	N
Mr. Burchett	Y	Mr. Allred	N
Mr. Johnson of SD	Y	Ms. Davids of KS	N
Mr. Van Drew	Y	Mr. García of IL	N
Mr. Nehls	Mr. Pappas	N
Mr. Mann	Y	Mr. Moulton	N
Mr. Owens	Y	Mr. Auchincloss	N
Mr. Yakym	Y	Ms. Strickland	N
Mrs. Chavez-DeRemer	Y	Mr. Carter of LA	N
Mr. Kean of NJ	Y	Mr. Ryan	N
Mr. D'Esposito	Y	Mrs. Peltola	N
Mr. Burlison	Y	Mr. Menendez	N
Mr. Van Orden	Y	Ms. Hoyle of OR	N
Mr. Williams of NY	Y	Mrs. Sykes
Mr. Molinaro	Y	Ms. Scholten	N
Mr. Collins	Y	Mrs. Foushee	N
Mr. Ezell	Y	Mr. Deluzio	N
Mr. Duarte	Y		
Mr. Bean of FL	Y		
Ms. Maloy	Y		
Mr. Kiley	Y		
Mr. Fong	Y		

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply where a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and is included in the report. Such a cost estimate is included in this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974*, the Committee has received the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 9750 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congressional Budget Office, to the extent practicable, to prepare estimates of the budgetary effects of legislation ordered reported by Congressional authorizing committees. In order to provide the Congress with as much information as possible, the attached table summarizes information about the estimated direct spending and revenue effects of some of the legislation that has been ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure during the 118th Congress. The legislation listed in this table generally would have small effects, if any, on direct spending or revenues, CBO es-

timates. Where possible, the table also provides information about the legislation's estimated effects on spending subject to appropriation and on intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND MANDATES INFORMATION

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget Function	Direct spending 2025-2034	Revenues, 2025-2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025-2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 1586	Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023.	Ordered reported.	11/15/23	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	Yes	Lilia Ledezma
H.R. 1586	<p>H.R. 1586 would authorize federal, state, local, and tribal firefighting agencies to use approved fire retardants to prevent and suppress wildfires without first obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The bill also would prohibit state courts from issuing injunctions against state or tribal entities' dispersal of aerial fire retardants as part of wildfire suppression or control. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1586 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) that would not exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$100 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.</p>										
H.R. 1720	Ocean Pollution Reduction Act	Ordered reported.	09/18/24	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Aurora Swanson
H.R. 1720	<p>II. H.R. 1720 would allow the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego, California, to discharge water without applying for an exemption from the secondary treatment standards of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System if plant meets certain conditions specified in the bill. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1720 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 2892	WARN Act	Ordered reported.	09/18/24	800	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
H.R. 2892	<p>H.R. 2892 would require the Government Accountability Office within 18 months of enactment to study and report on the effectiveness of the nation's weather emergency alert systems. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2892 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025-2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 3149	A bill to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway," and for other purposes.	Ordered reported.	09/18/24	400	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Kelly Durand
H.R. 3149	<p>H.R. 3149 would designate U.S. Route 20 as the National Medal of Honor Highway. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3149 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025-2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										

ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND MANDATES INFORMATION—Continued

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending, 2025–2034	Revenues, 2025–2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025–2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 3988	ARTICLE ONE Act	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	800	Between -\$500,000 and zero	0	Not estimated	Yes	No	No	Kelly Durand
	<p>H.R. 3988 would amend the National Emergencies Act to limit to 30 days the duration of any national emergency declared by the President unless the Congress subsequently approves or extends the declaration. The bill also would require the President to report to the Congress periodically on the need for and status of declared emergencies. CBO cannot predict the number or timing of future declarations but expects that most would be approved by the Congress. Under H.R. 3988 emergency declarations could have a shorter duration than under current law. If that happens direct spending related to such emergencies would decline; CBO estimates any reduction in direct spending would be insignificant. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not affect revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 4043	H.R. 4043, a bill to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to expand eligibility for certain wastewater infrastructure grants, and for other purposes.	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	300	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Aurora Swanson
	<p>H.R. 4043 would expand eligibility for certain wastewater infrastructure grants administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4043 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 6241	FULL Act	Ordered re-ported.	11/15/23	800	Between zero and \$500,000	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
	<p>H.R. 6241 would require federal agencies that have lease agreements with the General Services Administration (GSA) to annually report to GSA on their monthly use and occupancy rates. Under the bill, agencies would be required to return space to GSA if occupancy falls below 60 percent for six months over any one-year period. Enacting H.R. 6241 could increase direct spending by some agencies that are allowed to use fees, receipts from the sale of goods, and other collections to cover operating costs. CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible because most of them can adjust amounts collected to reflect changes in operating costs. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6241 would have no effect on revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 6984	A bill to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the "Virginia Smith Federal Building," and for other purposes.	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	800	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
	<p>H.R. 6984 would designate the federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the Virginia Smith Federal Building. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6984 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										

ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND MANDATES INFORMATION—Continued

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget Function	Direct spending, 2025–2034	Revenues, 2025–2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025–2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 8995	Baby Changing on Board Act ...	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	400	0	0	0	No	No	Yes	Kelly Durand
	<p>H.R. 8995 would require Amtrak trains purchased after the bill's enactment to include baby-changing tables in all train restrooms that are subject to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Because Amtrak is considered a nonfederal entity, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8995 would have no effect on the federal budget. The bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) that would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$200 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.</p>										
H.R. 9024	Extreme Weather and Heat Response Modernization Act.	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jon Sperl
	<p>H.R. 9024 would require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to issue guidance for disaster relief programs concerning extreme-temperature events and to consider innovative preparedness and mitigation projects for such disasters in its grantmaking. The bill also would require FEMA to convene an advisory panel to review the definition of incident periods for extreme-temperature events and to issue regulations revising those periods. Finally, the bill would require FEMA to study the effects of extreme-temperature disasters, develop guidance and best practices for responding to such events, and report to the Congress. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9024 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 9313	Think Differently About Building Accessibility Act.	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	800	0	0	Between zero and \$500,000	No	No	No	Matthew Pickford
	<p>H.R. 9313 would direct the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress concerning accessibility for people with disabilities in all office buildings controlled by the General Services Administration. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9313 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2029 period. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 9541	POWER Act of 2024	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jon Sperl
	<p>H.R. 9541 would authorize electric utilities that receive disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for emergency power restoration to implement mitigation activities as part of power restoration. Those actions would not disqualify utilities from receiving mitigation assistance under the Public Assistance Program. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9541 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 9591	A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to sell certain property related to United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, and for other purposes.	Ordered re-ported.	09/18/24	800	Between -\$500,000 and zero	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Emma Uebelhor

H.R. 9591	Ordered re-ported.	09/25/24	450	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jon Spert
H.R. 9750	Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024.									

H.R. 9591 would require the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell any property in the State of Missouri associated with the Federal Correctional Institution, Leavenworth, which is located in Kansas. Net proceeds from the sale would be deposited into the Federal Buildings Fund and recorded in the budget as offsetting receipts (that is, as reductions in direct spending). Using information from GSA, CBO estimates that the property could be sold for about \$500,000; therefore, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9591 would decrease direct spending by an insignificant amount. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not affect revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9750 would create a Natural Disaster Recovery Fund, to be administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, from which the agency would make grants to state and tribal governments to cover unmet needs following major disasters. Those governments would determine how funds are spent. The bill also would expand the availability of disaster assistance for housing repairs and require several reports related to disaster recovery programs. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9750 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the performance goal and objective of H.R. 9750, as amended, is to streamline Federal disaster assistance under FEMA and ensure that unmet needs are met.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 9750, as amended, establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act* (Public Law 104–4).

PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the *Congressional Budget Act of 1974* requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee finds that H.R. 9750, as amended, does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the definition of Section 5(b) of the appendix to Title 5, United States Code, are created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the *Congressional Accountability Act* (Public Law 104–1).

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title; Table of Contents

This section provides that this bill may be cited as the “Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024.”

Section 2. Natural Disaster Recovery Program

This section creates a new fund at the Department of the Treasury, to be administered by FEMA, allowing states and Indian tribal governments to request financial assistance for unmet needs after a major disaster declaration, and establishes parameter for the calculation and provision of these funds.

Section 3. Unmet needs assistance

This section amends the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* by adding Section 432, which allows the President to direct the FEMA Administrator to provide an immediate down payment for unmet needs within 30 days of a disaster declaration. The FEMA Administrator would be able to allocate up to 10 percent of the estimated aggregate amount of grants made under Sections 406 and 408 of the *Stafford Act* to states or Indian tribal governments.

Section 4. Further considerations for disaster declarations

This section requires FEMA, when making recommendations to the President regarding the declaration of a major disaster or emergency or the proposed non-Federal share of the cost of assistance, to give greater weight and considerations to disasters that have a severe local impact or whether multiple other disasters or emergencies have occurred in the affected area within the five-year period preceding such disaster or emergency.

Section 5. Repair and rebuilding

This section amends section 408(b)(1) of the *Stafford Act* by removing the requirement that households must be rendered uninhabitable by a major disaster to be eligible for financial assistance for home repair.

Section 6. FEMA emergency home repair program

This section amends section 403(a) of the *Stafford Act* by authorizing FEMA to make minor repairs up to habitability of owner-occupied homes damaged by a disaster, enabling disaster survivors to shelter in place.

Section 7. Appeals of individuals and households program benefits

This section amends section 408(c)(1)(B) of the *Stafford Act* by extending the time period for appeals of the Individual and Households Program from 18 to 24 months.

Section 8. Report to Congress on major disaster declarations

This section requires the FEMA Administrator to submit a report on the Individual and Household Program to Congress within 180 days of enactment. This report shall discuss FEMA’s approval, denial, and appeal process for each disaster declared during the five-

year period preceding the date of enactment, as well as information regarding FEMA’s operation of disaster recovery centers.

Section 9. Review by Comptroller General

This section requires the Comptroller General to review and make recommendations to Congress regarding the new unmet needs program established under section three.

Section 10. GAO Study on timing of closing out disaster recovery

This section requires the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress on FEMA’s open major disasters.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

* * * * *

TITLE IV—MAJOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

* * * * *

SEC. 403. ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Federal agencies may on the direction of the President, provide assistance essential to meeting immediate threats to life and property resulting from a major disaster, as follows:

- (1) FEDERAL RESOURCES, GENERALLY.—Utilizing, lending, or donating to State and local governments Federal equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other resources, other than the extension of credit, for use or distribution by such governments in accordance with the purposes of this Act.
- (2) MEDICINE, FOOD, AND OTHER CONSUMABLES.—Distributing or rendering through State and local governments, the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief and disaster assistance organizations medicine durable medical equipment,, food, and other

consumable supplies, and other services and assistance to disaster victims.

(3) WORK AND SERVICES TO SAVE LIVES AND PROTECT PROPERTY.—Performing on public or private lands or waters any work or services essential to saving lives and protecting and preserving property or public health and safety, including—

(A) debris removal;

(B) search and rescue, emergency medical care, emergency mass care, emergency shelter, and provision of food, water, medicinedurable medical equipment,, and other essential needs, including movement of supplies or persons;

(C) clearance of roads and construction of temporary bridges necessary to the performance of emergency tasks and essential community services;

(D) provision of temporary facilities for schools and other essential community services;

(E) demolition of unsafe structures which endanger the public;

(F) warning of further risks and hazards;

(G) dissemination of public information and assistance regarding health and safety measures;

(H) provision of technical advice to State and local governments on disaster management and control;

(I) reduction of immediate threats to life, property, and public health and safety; [and]

(J) provision of rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs—

(i) to individuals with household pets and service animals; and

(ii) to such pets and animals[.]; and

(K) *minor repairs up to habitability of owner-occupied homes damaged by the disaster in order for survivors to safely shelter in place, subject to the availability of appropriations.*

(4) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Making contributions to State or local governments or owners or operators of private nonprofit facilities for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

(5) SHELTERING AND HOUSING OPTIONS.—*Not later than 15 days after a declaration of a major disaster, the Federal coordinating officer shall identify all sheltering and housing options available under this section or section 408 to a State Governor, or the designated State coordinating officer.*

(6) DEFINITIONS.—*In this subsection, the term “minor repairs up to habitability” means the minimum standards for permanent housing described in section 576.403(c) of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).*

(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of assistance under this section shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance.

(c) UTILIZATION OF DOD RESOURCES.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—During the immediate aftermath of an incident which may ultimately qualify for assistance under this title or title V of this Act, the Governor of the State in which such incident occurred may request the President to direct the

Secretary of Defense to utilize the resources of the Department of Defense for the purpose of performing on public and private lands any emergency work which is made necessary by such incident and which is essential for the preservation of life and property. If the President determines that such work is essential for the preservation of life and property, the President shall grant such request to the extent the President determines practicable. Such emergency work may only be carried out for a period not to exceed 10 days.

(2) RULES APPLICABLE TO DEBRIS REMOVAL.—Any removal of debris and wreckage carried out under this subsection shall be subject to section 407(b), relating to unconditional authorization and indemnification for debris removal.

(3) EXPENDITURES OUT OF DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.—The cost of any assistance provided pursuant to this subsection shall be reimbursed out of funds made available to carry out this Act.

(4) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of assistance under this subsection shall be not less than 75 percent.

(5) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of 1988, the President shall issue guidelines for carrying out this subsection. Such guidelines shall consider any likely effect assistance under this subsection will have on the availability of other forms of assistance under this Act.

(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(A) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The term “Department of Defense” has the meaning the term “department” has under section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) EMERGENCY WORK.—The term “emergency work” includes clearance and removal of debris and wreckage and temporary restoration of essential public facilities and services.

(d) SALARIES AND BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the President declares a major disaster or emergency for an area within the jurisdiction of a State, tribal, or local government, the President may reimburse the State, tribal, or local government for costs relating to—

(A) basic pay and benefits for permanent employees of the State, tribal, or local government conducting emergency protective measures under this section, if—

(i) the work is not typically performed by the employees; and

(ii) the type of work may otherwise be carried out by contract or agreement with private organizations, firms, or individuals; or

(B) overtime and hazardous duty compensation for permanent employees of the State, tribal, or local government conducting emergency protective measures under this section.

(2) OVERTIME.—The guidelines for reimbursement for costs under paragraph (1) shall ensure that no State, tribal, or local government is denied reimbursement for overtime payments that are required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

(3) NO EFFECT ON MUTUAL AID PACTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall affect the ability of the President to reimburse labor force expenses provided pursuant to an authorized mutual aid pact.

* * * * *

SEC. 408. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—In accordance with this section, the President, in consultation with the Governor of a State, may provide financial assistance, and, if necessary, direct services, to individuals and households in the State who, as a direct result of a major disaster, have necessary expenses and serious needs in cases in which the individuals and households are unable to meet such expenses or needs through other means.

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Under paragraph (1), an individual or household shall not be denied assistance under paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of subsection (c) solely on the basis that the individual or household has not applied for or received any loan or other financial assistance from the Small Business Administration or any other Federal agency.

(b) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—The President may provide financial or other assistance under this section to individuals and households to respond to the disaster-related housing needs of individuals and households who are displaced from their predisaster primary residences or whose predisaster primary residences are ~~rendered uninhabitable~~ *damaged by a major disaster*, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible or ~~uninhabitable, as a result of damage caused by a major disaster~~ *damaged by a major disaster*.

(2) DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall determine appropriate types of housing assistance to be provided under this section to individuals and households described in subsection (a)(1) based on considerations of cost effectiveness, convenience to the individuals and households, and such other factors as the President may consider appropriate.

(B) MULTIPLE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—One or more types of housing assistance may be made available under this section, based on the suitability and availability of the types of assistance, to meet the needs of individuals and households in the particular disaster situation.

(c) TYPES OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

(1) TEMPORARY HOUSING.—

(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial assistance to individuals or households to rent alternate housing accommodations, existing rental units, manufactured housing, recreational vehicles, or other readily fabricated dwellings. Such assistance may include the payment of the cost of utilities, excluding telephone service.

(ii) AMOUNT.—The amount of assistance under clause (i) shall be based on the fair market rent for the accommodation provided plus the cost of any transportation, utility hookups, security deposits, or unit installation not provided directly by the President.

(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide temporary housing units, acquired by purchase or lease, directly to individuals or households who, because of a lack of available housing resources, would be unable to make use of the assistance provided under subparagraph (A).

(ii) LEASE AND REPAIR OF RENTAL UNITS FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The President, to the extent the President determines it would be a cost-effective alternative to other temporary housing options, may—

(aa) enter into lease agreements with owners of multifamily rental property impacted by a major disaster or located in areas covered by a major disaster declaration to house individuals and households eligible for assistance under this section; and

(bb) make repairs or improvements to properties under such lease agreements, to the extent necessary to serve as safe and adequate temporary housing.

(II) IMPROVEMENTS OR REPAIRS.—Under the terms of any lease agreement for property entered into under this subsection, the value of the improvements or repairs shall be deducted from the value of the lease agreement.

(iii) PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—The President may not provide direct assistance under clause (i) with respect to a major disaster after the end of the [18-month period] *24-month period* beginning on the date of the declaration of the major disaster by the President, except that the President may extend that period if the President determines that due to extraordinary circumstances an extension would be in the public interest.

(iv) COLLECTION OF RENTAL CHARGES.—After the end of the [18-month period] *24-month period* referred to in clause (iii), the President may charge fair market rent for each temporary housing unit provided.

[(2) REPAIRS.—

[(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial assistance for—

[(i) the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster to a safe and sanitary living or functioning condition; and

[(i) eligible hazard mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood of future damage to such residences, utilities, or infrastructure.

[(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.]

(2) REPAIRS.—

(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—*The President may provide financial assistance for the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a major disaster.*

(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—*The President may provide direct assistance to individuals and households who are unable to make use of financial assistance under subparagraph (A) and when there is a lack of available resources, for—*

(I) *the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a disaster; and*

(II) *eligible hazard mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood and future damage to such residences, utilities, and infrastructure.*

(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—*A recipient of assistance under this subparagraph shall not be eligible for assistance under paragraph (1), unless otherwise determined by the Administrator.*

(iii) COORDINATION WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE.—*Assistance allowed under this paragraph may be used in coordination with other sources for the repair and rebuilding of an owner-occupied residence.*

(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—*A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.*

(3) REPLACEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—*The President may provide financial assistance for the replacement of owner-occupied private residences damaged by a major disaster.*

(B) APPLICABILITY OF FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENT.—*With respect to assistance provided under this paragraph, the President may not waive any provision of Federal law requiring the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of the receipt of Federal disaster assistance.*

(4) PERMANENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION.—*The President may provide financial assistance or direct assistance to individuals or households to construct permanent or semi-permanent housing in insular areas outside the continental United States and in other locations [in cases in which—*

- [(A) no alternative housing resources are available; and
 [(B) the types of temporary housing assistance described
 in paragraph (1) are unavailable, infeasible, or not cost-effective.] *if the President considers it a cost effective alternative to other housing solutions, including the costs associated with temporary housing provided under this section, and long-term rebuilding costs associated with section 431.*
- (d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—
- (1) SITES.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Any readily fabricated dwelling provided under this section shall, whenever practicable, be located on a site that—
- (i) is complete with utilities;
 - (ii) meets the physical accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities; and
 - (iii) is provided by the State or local government, by the owner of the site, or by the occupant who was displaced by the major disaster.
- (B) SITES PROVIDED BY THE PRESIDENT.—A readily fabricated dwelling may be located on a site provided by the President if the President determines that such a site would be more economical or accessible.
- (2) DISPOSAL OF UNITS.—
- (A) SALE TO OCCUPANTS.—
- (i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a temporary housing unit purchased under this section by the President for the purpose of housing disaster victims may be sold directly to the individual or household who is occupying the unit if the individual or household lacks permanent housing.
 - (ii) SALE PRICE.—A sale of a temporary housing unit under clause (i) shall be at a price that is fair and equitable.
 - (iii) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the proceeds of a sale under clause (i) shall be deposited in the appropriate Disaster Relief Fund account.
 - (iv) HAZARD AND FLOOD INSURANCE.—A sale of a temporary housing unit under clause (i) shall be made on the condition that the individual or household purchasing the housing unit agrees to obtain and maintain hazard and flood insurance on the housing unit.
 - (v) USE OF GSA SERVICES.—The President may use the services of the General Services Administration to accomplish a sale under clause (i).
- (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; or
 - (ii) may be sold, transferred, donated, or otherwise made available directly to a State or other governmental entity or to a voluntary organization for the sole purpose of providing temporary housing to disaster victims in major disasters and emergencies if, as

a condition of the sale, transfer, or donation, the State, other governmental agency, or voluntary organization agrees—

(I) to comply with the nondiscrimination provisions of section 308; and

(II) to obtain and maintain hazard and flood insurance on the housing unit.

(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS OTHER NEEDS.—

(1) MEDICAL, DENTAL, CHILD CARE, AND FUNERAL EXPENSES.—The President, in consultation with the Governor of a State, may provide financial assistance under this section to an individual or household in the State who is adversely affected by a major disaster to meet disaster-related medical, dental, child care, and funeral expenses.

(2) PERSONAL PROPERTY, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER EXPENSES.—The President, in consultation with the Governor of a State, may provide financial assistance under this section to an individual or household described in paragraph (1) to address personal property, transportation, and other necessary expenses or serious needs resulting from the major disaster.

(f) STATE ROLE.—

(1) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—

(A) GRANT TO STATE.—Subject to subsection (g), a Governor may request a grant from the President to provide assistance to individuals and households in the State under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e) if the President and the State or Indian tribal government comply, as determined by the Administrator, with paragraph (3).

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that receives a grant under subparagraph (A) may expend not more than 5 percent of the amount of the grant for the administrative costs of providing assistance to individuals and households in the State under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e).

(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS.—In providing assistance to individuals and households under this section, the President shall provide for the substantial and ongoing involvement of the States in which the individuals and households are located, including by providing to the States access to the electronic records of individuals and households receiving assistance under this section in order for the States to make available any additional State and local assistance to the individuals and households.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) APPLICATION.—A State or Indian tribal government desiring to provide assistance under subsection (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e) shall submit to the President an application for a grant to provide financial assistance under the program.

(B) CRITERIA.—The President, in consultation and coordination with State and Indian tribal governments, shall establish criteria for the approval of applications submitted under subparagraph (A). The criteria shall include, at a minimum—

(i) a requirement that the State or Indian tribal government submit a housing strategy under subparagraph (C);

(ii) the demonstrated ability of the State or Indian tribal government to manage the program under this section;

(iii) there being in effect a plan approved by the President as to how the State or Indian tribal government will comply with applicable Federal laws and regulations and how the State or Indian tribal government will provide assistance under its plan;

(iv) a requirement that the State or Indian tribal government comply with rules and regulations established pursuant to subsection (j); and

(v) a requirement that the President, or the designee of the President, comply with subsection (i).

(C) REQUIREMENT OF HOUSING STRATEGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribal government submitting an application under this paragraph shall have an approved housing strategy, which shall be developed and submitted to the President for approval.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The housing strategy required under clause (i) shall—

(I) outline the approach of the State in working with Federal partners, Indian tribal governments, local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and individual disaster survivors to meet disaster-related sheltering and housing needs; and

(II) include the establishment of an activation plan for a State Disaster Housing Task Force, as outlined in the National Disaster Housing Strategy, to bring together State, tribal, local, Federal, nongovernmental, and private sector expertise to evaluate housing requirements, consider potential solutions, recognize special needs populations, and propose recommendations.

(D) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—Before approving an application submitted under this section, the President, or the designee of the President, shall institute adequate policies, procedures, and internal controls to prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and program mismanagement for this program and for programs under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e). The President shall monitor and conduct quality assurance activities on a State or Indian tribal government's implementation of programs under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e). If, after approving an application of a State or Indian tribal government submitted under this paragraph, the President determines that the State or Indian tribal government is not administering the program established by this section in a manner satisfactory to the President, the President shall withdraw the approval.

(E) AUDITS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall provide for periodic audits of

the programs administered by States and Indian tribal governments under this subsection.

(F) APPLICABLE LAWS.—All Federal laws applicable to the management, administration, or contracting of the programs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under this section shall be applicable to the management, administration, or contracting by a non-Federal entity under this section.

(G) REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the State or Indian tribal government's role to provide assistance under this section. The report shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness of the State or Indian tribal government's role in providing assistance under this section, including—

(i) whether the State or Indian tribal government's role helped to improve the general speed of disaster recovery;

(ii) whether the State or Indian tribal government providing assistance under this section had the capacity to administer this section; and

(iii) recommendations for changes to improve the program if the State or Indian tribal government's role to administer the programs should be continued.

(H) REPORT ON INCENTIVES.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on a potential incentive structure for awards made under this section to encourage participation by eligible States and Indian tribal governments. In developing this report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall consult with State, local, and Indian tribal entities to gain their input on any such incentive structure to encourage participation and shall include this information in the report. This report should address, among other options, potential adjustments to the cost-share requirement and management costs to State and Indian tribal governments.

(I) PROHIBITION.—The President may not condition the provision of Federal assistance under this Act on a State or Indian tribal government requesting a grant under this section.

(J) MISCELLANEOUS.—

(i) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may waive notice and comment rulemaking with respect to rules to carry out this section, if the Administrator determines doing so is necessary to expeditiously imple-

ment this section, and may carry out this section as a pilot program until such regulations are promulgated.

(ii) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue final regulations to implement this subsection as amended by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

(iii) WAIVER AND EXPIRATION.—The authority under clause (i) and any pilot program implemented pursuant to such clause shall expire 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph or upon issuance of final regulations pursuant to clause (ii), whichever occurs sooner.

(g) COST SHARING.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the costs eligible to be paid using assistance provided under this section shall be 100 percent.

(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS OTHER NEEDS.—In the case of financial assistance provided under subsection (e)—

(A) the Federal share shall be 75 percent; and

(B) the non-Federal share shall be paid from funds made available by the State.

(h) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No individual or household shall receive financial assistance greater than \$25,000 under this section with respect to a single major disaster, excluding financial assistance to rent alternate housing accommodations under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i) and financial assistance to address other needs under subsection (e).

(2) OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—The maximum financial assistance any individual or household may receive under subsection (e) shall be equivalent to the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect to a single major disaster.

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF LIMIT.—The limit established under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor.

(4) EXCLUSION OF NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The maximum amount of assistance established under paragraph (1) shall exclude expenses to repair or replace damaged accessibility-related improvements under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (c) for individuals with disabilities.

(B) OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—The maximum amount of assistance established under paragraph (2) shall exclude expenses to repair or replace accessibility-related personal property under subsection (e)(2) for individuals with disabilities.

(i) VERIFICATION MEASURES.—In carrying out this section, the President shall develop a system, including an electronic database, that shall allow the President, or the designee of the President, to—

(1) verify the identity and address of recipients of assistance under this section to provide reasonable assurance that payments are made only to an individual or household that is eligible for such assistance;

(2) minimize the risk of making duplicative payments or payments for fraudulent claims under this section;

(3) collect any duplicate payment on a claim under this section, or reduce the amount of subsequent payments to offset the amount of any such duplicate payment;

(4) provide instructions to recipients of assistance under this section regarding the proper use of any such assistance, regardless of how such assistance is distributed; and

(5) conduct an expedited and simplified review and appeal process for an individual or household whose application for assistance under this section is denied.

(j) **RULES AND REGULATIONS.**—The President shall prescribe rules and regulations to carry out this section, including criteria, standards, and procedures for determining eligibility for assistance.

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SEC. 431. NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

(a) **NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY RESERVE FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—*There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the Natural Disaster Recovery Reserve Fund (in this section referred to as the "Fund").*

(2) **AMOUNTS.**—*The Fund shall consist of—*

(A) *any amounts appropriated, and deposited in the Fund, for a specific major disaster declared under section 401; and*

(B) *amounts deposited into the Fund pursuant to paragraph (4).*

(3) **USE OF FUNDS.**—*Amounts in the Fund shall be available, pursuant to a declaration of a major disaster—*

(A) *to States and Indian tribal governments for unmet need related to a major disaster is declared under section 401; and*

(B) *with respect to grantees that have been allocated assistance for such unmet need, for technical assistance and capacity building under subsection (c)(2) to facilitate planning and increase capacity to administer assistance under this section.*

(4) **UNUSED AMOUNTS.**—*If any amounts made available for assistance under this section to grantees remain unexpended on the earlier of—*

(A) *the date that the grantee of such amounts notifies the President that the grantee has completed all activities; or*

(B) *except as provided in paragraph (5), the expiration of the 6-year period beginning when the President obligates such amounts to the grantee, the President shall transfer such unexpended amounts to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund, except that the President may permit the grantee to retain amounts needed to close out the grant.*

(5) *EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF FUNDS.*—The period under paragraph (4)(B) may be extended by not more than 4 years if, before the expiration of such 6-year period, the President waives this requirement and submits a written justification for such waiver to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that specifies the period of such extension.

(b) *ASSESSMENT OF UNMET NEED.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—To assess unmet need with respect to a major disaster under section, not later than 90 days after the declaration of such a disaster, the President shall coordinate with other Federal agencies, as determined appropriate and including the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to obtain data on all recovery needs and the amount of such recovery needs that are unmet, including—

(A) all data on damage caused by the disaster;

(B) information on how any Federal assistance provided in connection with the disaster has been expended;

(C) information on the effect of the disaster on education, transportation capabilities and dependence, housing needs, health care capacity, and displacement of persons; and

(D) the extent of the unmet need remaining in relation to such disaster.

(2) *PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.*—The President shall make publicly available the data described in paragraph (1) for any major disaster for which assistance is provided from the Fund under this section.

(3) *PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.*—In carrying out this subsection, the President and any recipient of funds under this section shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that personally identifiable information regarding recipients of assistance provided under this section is not made publicly available by any agency with which information is shared pursuant to this subsection.

(c) *ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—A State or Indian tribal government receiving a grant under this section may use not more than 13 percent of the amount of grant funds received, or within such other percentage as may be established pursuant to subparagraph (B), for administrative costs, including costs related to audits, reviews, oversight, evaluation, and investigations.

(2) *DISCRETION TO ESTABLISH SLIDING SCALE.*—The President may establish a series of percentage limitations on the amount of grant funds received that may be used by a grantee for administrative costs, but only if—

(A) such percentage limitations are based on the amount of grant funds received by a grantee; and

(B) such series provides that the percentage that may be used is lower for grantees receiving a greater amount of grant funds and such percentage that may be used is higher for grantees receiving a lesser amount of grant funds.

(3) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; CAPACITY BUILDING.*—From funds made available for use under this section, the President may provide—

- (A) necessary technical assistance to grantees to ensure grantees are compliant with Federal law; and
- (B) capacity building assistance, including assistance regarding contracting and procurement processes, including providing solicitation and contractual templates that conform to Federal requirements for use by grantees.
- (d) ALLOCATION, PROCESS, AND PROCEDURES; COORDINATION.—
- (1) ALLOCATION.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall allocate funds under this section proportionally to grantees based on their level of unmet need as determined under subsection (b).
- (B) GRANTEE USE OF FUNDS.—Each grantee—
- (i) shall be solely responsible for determining how funds provided under this section are prioritized and expended; and
- (ii) shall not be required to provide an action or spending plan to the President before or after funds are allocated.
- (C) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding section 312, a loan shall not—
- (i) be considered a duplication of benefits with funds provided by a Federal agency; or
- (ii) limit or otherwise impact the ability of a recipient to receive any other Federal assistance.
- (2) PROCEDURE FOR PROVISION OF FUNDS.—An entity awarded a grant under this section shall be provided an initial amount that equals 50 percent of total grant amount allocated under paragraph (1). To be eligible for the remaining 50 percent of the allocation, a grantee shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Inspector General of the United States a report containing—
- (A) a detailed description of how such amount was spent; and
- (B) a certification from an auditor of the State or Indian tribal government that none of the funds were wasted or used inappropriately.
- (3) REQUIREMENTS.—Each State and Indian tribal government that receives funds under this section shall establish or adhere to existing guidelines for procurement processes and procedures and require that subgrantees—
- (A) provide for full and open competition and require cost or price analysis;
- (B) specify methods of procurement and their applicability, but not allow cost-plus-a-percentage-of cost or percentage-of-construction-cost methods of procurement;
- (C) include standards of conduct governing employees engaged in the award or administration of contracts; and
- (D) ensure that all purchase orders and contracts include any clauses required by Federal statute, Executive order, or implementing regulation.
- (e) FUNDING.—Any funds provided under this section—

(1) shall supplement and not supplant any other assistance provided by the President or any other Federal agency in response to a major disaster; and

(2) may not be considered a duplication of assistance.

(f) **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**—Any Federal agency or recipient of funds received under this section that fund or use funds to supplement funds provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency.

(g) **BEST PRACTICES.**—The President shall identify best practices for grantees on issues including developing action plans, establishing financial controls, building grantee technical and administrative capacity, procurement, and use of grant funds as local match for other sources of Federal funding. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the President shall publish a compilation of such identified best practices and share with all relevant grantees to facilitate a more efficient and effective disaster recovery process.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **STATE AUDITOR.**—The term “State auditor” means the individual selected by the Governor or head of an Indian tribal government to submit a certification in accordance with subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) **UNMET NEED.**—The term “unmet need”—

(A) means any necessary expenses for activities related to disaster relief, resiliency, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, mitigation, and economic revitalization related to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401; and

(B) may include—

(i) any unresourced item, support, or assistance that has been assessed and verified as necessary for a survivor to recover from a major disaster, including food, clothing, shelter, first aid, emotional and spiritual care, household items, home repair, or rebuilding; and

(ii) cleaning and removing debris from rivers, creeks, streams, and ditches.

SEC. 432. UNMET NEEDS ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In any major disaster, the Governor or the Chief Executive of the Indian tribal government may request a grant from the President to provide assistance to meet unmet needs resulting from a major disaster.

(b) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **AMOUNT OF FUNDING.**—The President may set aside from the Disaster Relief Fund, with respect to each major disaster, an amount equal to 10 percent of the estimated aggregate amount of the grants to be made pursuant to sections 406 and 408 of the major disaster in order to provide technical and financial assistance under this section and such amounts shall be deemed to be related to activities carried out pursuant to major disasters under this Act.

(2) **ESTIMATED AGGREGATE AMOUNT.**—Not later than 180 days after each major disaster declared pursuant to this Act, the estimated aggregate amount of grants for purposes of para-

graph (1) shall be determined by the President and such estimated amount need not be reduced, increased, or changed due to variations in estimates.

(3) *NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.*—The amount set aside pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce the amounts otherwise made available for sections 403, 406, 407, 408, 410, 416, and 428 under this Act.

(c) *UNMET NEEDS.*—A State or Indian tribal government may use unmet needs grants to provide assistance, in addition to other assistance made available under this Act, for the following unmet needs resulting from a major disaster:

(1) *Disaster-related home repair and rebuilding financial assistance to families for permanent housing purposes, including in conjunction with eligible expenditures under section 408.*

(2) *Disaster-related unmet needs of families who are unable to obtain adequate assistance from other sources.*

(3) *Other disaster-related services that alleviate human suffering and promote the well-being of disaster victims.*

(4) *Economic and business activities (including food and agriculture) after a disaster to implement post-disaster economic recovery measures, including planning and technical assistance for long-term economic recovery plans, infrastructure improvements, business or infrastructure financing, market or industry research, and other activities authorized under a comprehensive economic development strategy.*

(d) *ACCOUNTING AND FISCAL CONTROLS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 6 months after receipt of funds and every 6 months thereafter until all such funds are expended, each State or Indian tribal government receiving such funds shall submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

(A) *the criteria established for determining how the funds are spent;*

(B) *the allocation of such funds; and*

(C) *the process for public notice and comment.*

(2) *ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.*—A State or Indian tribal government that receives funds under this section may expend not more than 5 percent of the amount of such funds for the administrative costs of providing financial assistance to individuals and households in the State.

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