



Navigating the Future of Disasters: A State-Led Approach

States, localities, tribes, and territories are taking the lead for disaster recovery. The focus of the FEMA review council is a “state-led, federally supported” model.

Leading the Way: Challenges and Opportunities in a State-Led Disaster Landscape

As your trusted partner, IEM will help you navigate this transition and seize the opportunities it brings. With FEMA increasingly adopting a supportive rather than directive role in disaster management, states are being called to lead like never before.

Challenges:

- **Increased Operational Demands:** State agencies must be ready to activate, scale, and sustain response operations with less direct federal intervention.
- **Resource Gaps:** Limited funding, staffing, and logistical capacity may strain state and local systems as operations are shifted from the federal level down.
- **Coordination Complexity:** Greater leadership means managing more partners, data, and decisions faster and more effectively.

Opportunities:

- **Greater Autonomy:** States gain the flexibility to tailor solutions to local needs, communities, and risk profiles—without waiting on federal approvals.
- **Stronger Community Trust:** State and locally delivered services foster deeper connections, quicker response times, and better outcomes.
- **Innovation at the Frontline:** With fewer federal constraints, state and local emergency managers can embrace bold, technology-driven approaches to preparedness, mitigation, and recovery.

This is the Moment: Your State Leads. IEM Powers the Way Forward.

The future of disaster management is state-led, survivor-focused, and strategically supported by a refocused federal role. Your agency can build a more innovative, faster, and sustainable system now. However, this demands the right expertise, strategies, and support. **For over 40 years, IEM has helped build the capacity, partnerships, and systems state agencies need to meet this challenge and own this opportunity.**

- **Turnkey Support for State-Led Operations:** From recovery center management to grants administration and surge staffing, we help you scale effectively and efficiently.
- **Innovative Tools for Smarter Response:** Using cutting-edge analytics, modeling, and AI, we help drive data-informed decisions that enhance survivor outcomes.
- **Strategic Guidance and Policy Expertise:** We decode federal reforms, ensure compliance, and help you maximize available funding for an effective and efficient recovery.
- **Community-Centered Solutions:** Our approach centers on local voices, access, and long-term resilience.

**Together, let's
shape a more
resilient, survivor-
focused future.
Led by you,
powered by IEM.**

Readiness Assessment: Build the Case. Boost Your Capacity.

Faster, more effective disaster response starts with a clear baseline. IEM's independent Readiness Assessments help states act decisively, coordinate effectively, and recover stronger—linking short-term readiness with long-term resilience.

Why It Matters

As federal support shifts, states must take the lead. IEM helps you assess strengths, close gaps, and build disaster plans—backed by the data and advocacy you need to win funding and shape policy.

How We Help

IEM's data-driven assessments empower funding proposals and legislative outreach, support FEMA and state reviews, drive internal performance gains and streamline coordination.

What We Evaluate

IEM unifies readiness and recovery into a strategic roadmap by assessing emergency authorities, operational readiness, recovery and housing programs, grants integration, governance, planning, and communications.

Turn Your Playbook Into Action: Disaster Preparedness Support

Although disasters are unpredictable, your preparedness should not be. IEM helps strengthen readiness with customized, mission-driven solutions. From planning to exercises, we turn strategy into capability. IEM offers:

- Tailored training programs to build capacity and confidence.
- Customized planning for every plan type, aligned with real-world threats.
- Realistic exercises to test and improve performance, ensuring readiness and built to follow HSEEP standards, and evaluated in line with Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards.

Response Operations: Your Mission – Our Support. One Unified Response.

Operational readiness and data-driven coordination are more critical than ever; the speed and quality of early disaster data can directly impact access to federal declarations and funding. **IEM reinforces your state's response capacity** with expert surge staff and technical capabilities, so you can lead confidently from field operations to executive coordination.

Logistics Support: From Supply Chain to Field

IEM enables rapid deployment and tracking of people, equipment, and supplies with full cost visibility and reimbursement eligibility. Our logistics solutions include:

- **Logistics Hubs:** Set up and manage points of distribution (POD) sites, mobile fuel stations, staging areas, and mobile power solutions.
- **Sheltering:** Establish and manage gyms, hotels, and base camps as shelters during reentry or temporary housing transition.
- **Turnkey Basecamps & Facilities:** Deploy mobile kitchens, shelters, hygiene units, and field infrastructure.
- **Mass Evacuation & Last-Mile Delivery:** Scalable evacuation support and targeted delivery of life-sustaining supplies when every second counts.

Every hour counts in a disaster. IEM equips your agency with the insight and strategy to act fast and recover stronger. Let's turn readiness into results.



Planning

IEM led strategic planning for **Colorado Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management** to enhance individual and household recovery efforts, and supported the State through EMAP efforts.



Response

IEM deployed **70+ staff** during Hurricanes Helene and Milton in support of the **Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)**, and have supported FDEM through every major storm event since 2020.

- **Airfield Assessments & Air Operations Support:** Rapid runway evaluations, flight planning, and coordination of cargo/personnel movement.
- **Critical Supply Chain Management:** End-to-end coordination and distribution of food, water, ice, fuel, generators, vehicles, and other essential supplies.

Staff Augmentation: The Right People, Right Now

Disasters demand experienced, scalable support. IEM provides year-round staff augmentation—from individual roles to full surge teams—to strengthen state EOC operations during major incidents. Our staff integrates seamlessly into your operations, **trained in NIMS/ICS and grounded in real-world emergency management experience.** Our capabilities include:

- **EOC Staffing** (e.g., Incident Management Teams)
- **Field-deployed Staff** (e.g., Intergovernmental Liaisons, Resource Coordinators)
- **Subject Matter Experts**
- **Specialty Teams** (e.g., Security, Medical, Logistics, Planning, Recovery)

Damage Assessments: Maximize Accuracy. Strengthen Your Case.

As FEMA reconsiders its approach to disaster response, states must be ready to deliver timely, accurate damage data. IEM helps you collect and present data that stands up to federal review, turning local impact into a validated case for assistance. Our team supports:

- Clear, credible Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)
- Rapid mobilization of trained field teams and analysts
- Accurate calculations of eligible public and private damages
- Alignment with future block grant or alternative funding models

State-Led IA: Rebuild Lives and Communities

IEM partners with emergency management agencies to deliver strategic, scalable, and human-centered recovery solutions—from rapid assessments to resilient rebuilding. From the first damage assessment to the last grant closeout, IEM brings structure to chaos so your state can confidently lead a recovery.

Restore Lives, Not Just Structures

Disaster recovery goes beyond repairing buildings for survivors. It is about restoring dignity, stability, and opportunity. **IEM helps states design and operate Individual Assistance (IA) programs, prioritizing people.** Our integrated, survivor-centric solutions include:

- **Unified Assistance Portals:** Custom online and call center systems offering one-stop access for survivors and providers.
- **Disaster Recovery & Multi-Agency Resource Centers (DRCs/MARCs):** End-to-end setup and staffing for seamless survivor services.
- **Emergency Home Repairs:** Rapid deployment of licensed trades to keep families safely in their homes.
- **Comprehensive Temporary Housing:** End-to-end management, from setup and maintenance to deactivation, including towable units, manufactured housing, and hotel/motel options, tailored to state needs.
- **Disaster Case Management:** Compassionate, structured guidance throughout long-term recovery.



Recovery

IEM has assisted **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)** with Grants Management and Public Assistance Technical Support for multiple events resulting in over **\$1B obligated funds.**



Mitigation

IEM provided specialized technical assistance to **Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)** in managing hazard mitigation programs, with a **combined obligation of \$3.4B.**



State-Led IA

IEM **designed a complete state-level IA** program for maximum survivor support for the **Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division.**

IEM delivers scalable, accountable recovery, driven by tailored intake systems, survivor-focused housing solutions, and strong governance that never sacrifices quality. At every step, IEM ensures survivors are supported, heard, and empowered. Our programs reflect compassion, competence, and community resilience. **We measure success by lives rebuilt.**

One System. Unified Impact.

We believe every survivor deserves seamless support. IEM will support the state to integrate all housing funding streams—State IA Programs, FEMA Individual Assistance, and HUD’s Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (CDBG-DR/CDBG-MIT)—into one cohesive system. By aligning short- and long-term efforts, we ensure no one falls through the cracks during transitions. Our approach keeps recovery compassionate and accountable, guiding states to deliver survivor-centered housing solutions.

Recovery: Build Resilient Communities

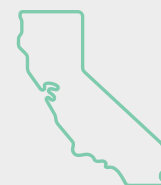
IEM helps states move beyond initial response and recovery to rebuild trust, restore communities, and strengthen resilience for the future. As states take charge of disaster recovery, you can **tailor efforts to state and local needs and goals.** IEM supports this shift by providing tools, systems, and expertise to manage infrastructure restoration, integrate block-grant recovery initiatives, and optimize mitigation funding.

Success requires clear priorities, effective program design, and cross-agency collaboration. IEM partners with state emergency management agencies, relevant departments, and community stakeholders to create compliant, efficient programs – whether navigating regulations, rebuilding infrastructure, or developing shovel-ready mitigation projects.

Our services include:

- **Damage Scoping & Cost Validation:** Ensuring FEMA and grant eligibility.
- **Public Assistance (PA) Program Management:** From impact to closeout.
- **Debris Removal Oversight:** Fast, compliant, cost-effective operations.
- **Future-Ready Infrastructure Projects:** Resilient, fundable, and mitigation-focused designs.
- **Architectural and Engineering Solutions:** Tailored to recovery and resilience goals.
- **Benefit-Cost Analyses (BCAs):** Justifying investments with measurable value.
- **GIS Mapping, Risk Modeling, & Hazus Loss Estimates:** Informing decisions with geospatial insights.
- **Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance & Floodplain Management:** Streamlining environmental approvals.
- **Resilience Planning & Application Support:** Securing funding and reducing future risks.

By weaving hazard mitigation into every recovery stage—leveraging FEMA PA (Sections 406 and 428), Hazard Mitigation grants, and potential block-grant streams—**IEM helps states build back smarter, reduce future risks, and swiftly adapt to federal funding changes.**



IEM supported the **City of Malibu, CA EOC** with a **four-person team** during the Palisades wildfire. IEM assisted in transitioning the City from response to recovery mode and **reconciled over \$2.4 million** in eligible expenses for FEMA reimbursement.



IEM provided Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) technical services to **VDEM** and local governments throughout the Commonwealth. Our mitigation experts and technical specialists **developed applications, conducted stakeholder outreach,** and submitted selected projects for consideration.



IEM supported **Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)** and **Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)** by **mobilizing over 250 personnel to support shelter operations** for asylum seekers and COVID-19 vaccination coordination response.

Legacy Disasters: Resolved and Compliant

Closing out legacy disasters is critical to securing and retaining obligated funds. Delays can put reimbursements at risk or lead to deobligations. **IEM helps states accelerate the closeout process** by resolving outstanding issues, reconciling documentation, and ensuring compliance with federal audit standards. We help you protect every eligible dollar, allowing your agency to close the books with confidence and shift the focus to future preparedness.

Grants & Program Management: Scalable Solutions for State-Led Success

At IEM, we bring four decades of hands-on experience in disaster grants and project management to help states **plan smarter, respond faster, and recover stronger**. Our experts deliver **full-spectrum program development and management**, tailored to meet your state's evolving needs.

What IEM Offers:

- **Best Practice Assessments:** Evaluate and apply proven strategies to design and administer effective statewide disaster programs.
- **Program & Legal Reviews:** Analyze current programs, authorities, and state laws to ensure alignment and efficiency.
- **Cost Estimation & Oversight Planning:** Project administrative and operational costs, including staffing, systems, and compliance.
- **Strategic Funding Integration:** Skillful braiding of federal, state, and local funds, avoiding duplication and maximizing resources.
- **Turnkey Program Support:** We provide end-to-end management, from initial design to implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

IEM transforms funding into life-saving outcomes with speed, intelligence, and full accountability.

Trusted in Crisis: Partner with IEM

For over 40 years, we have empowered emergency managers to successfully navigate and recover from all types of disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires, and pandemics.

Why States Choose IEM:

- **Proven Expertise:** A deep bench of nationally recognized professionals, ready to deploy scalable, state-tailored solutions.
- **Smart Technology:** Tools and systems that accelerate action, enhance precision, and ensure accountability—from mitigation to survivor assistance.
- **True Partnership:** A collaborative, survivor-first approach built on trust, transparency, and shared mission focus.

With IEM by your side, your team can lead with clarity, capability, and confidence. Together, let's build a future where **response is faster, recovery is smarter, and communities are stronger**.



<http://bit.ly/4n3L6Yp>

Four years later, we are still going strong with IEM as they continue to help us drive the agency forward. - Dillon Taylor, Esq., Chief of Staff & Senior Counsel, VDEM

Led by you, powered by IEM. Let's get to work.