



Tracking the Impact of Emergency & Disaster Funding

Office of Management & Budget

Challenge: Create digital tools and resources to track federal financial assistance award spending starting from Federal awards and flowing down to state and/or local spend in response to one or more emergencies and disasters (e.g., COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters)

Executive champion: Patrick Corrigan, Senior Advisor, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management & Budget

Background: Federal response to emergencies and disasters provides direct economic relief to the American people, including individuals, small businesses, and state and local governments, as well as those on the front lines. These funds are provided by numerous agencies across the federal government which keep extensive data on spending, but much of the data currently exists in silos. Furthermore, the public often does not have accessible ways to find information on how these funds are implemented on the state and local level. Although the Federal government has made strides with improving accountability and transparency, increasing accessibility around how Federal dollars flow to state and local communities in times of emergency would allow the public to better understand and assess how taxpayer funds are allocated and implemented by recipient governments and communities.

Why this problem matters: The federal government is a key provider of funding in times of crisis. Tracking how Federal spend and programs are filtered down and implemented at the working level can enhance data transparency, promote more effective emergency and disaster relief, and improve services to the American public. A greater understanding of how funds are dispersed and broken down can help decision-makers at all levels and across organizations better understand program effectiveness and aid in making more informed decisions about use of funds. Furthermore, more transparent access to such tracking is important to keep the federal government accountable for making the best intended use of these funds in the future, as well to illustrate where gaps may exist and signify highest priorities for future emergency funding. Lastly, better tracking of federal funding flows would improve the ability of the public and decision-makers at all levels to learn how these dollars and resulting programs affect local communities.

Vision for sprint outcomes: Through access to tracking of emergency and disaster funding data and user friendly digital tools, more Americans will be aware of how America's tax dollars are being spent, understand where the largest need is, and how each state and local community addresses their unique needs. This will allow for greater understanding of the direct correlation of impact to the state and local governments.



Target end users: American public, researchers, engaged citizens, state/local communities, rural or tribal communities, grant/loan recipients, small businesses, managers of disaster funds, appropriators

Related open data sets:

- USASpending ([link](#))
- Disaster spending reports, FEMA ([link](#))
- Federal Agency Congressional Justifications data
- Annual Performance Reports (more available)
 - FEMA ([link](#))
 - HHS ([link](#))
- Additional state and local datasets available

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