



NATIONAL MITIGATION INVESTMENT AGENDA

*It's time to
Save Lives. Save Tax Dollars.
and*

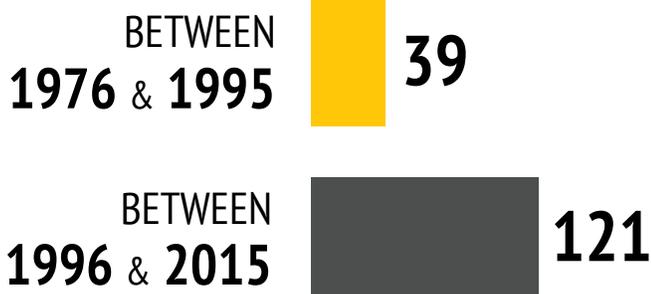
Make America
RESILIENT AGAIN

#MARA

Dangerous Disaster Spending



Natural disasters are rapidly increasing in frequency and severity.



Avg. Annual Federal Disaster Declarations¹

SINCE 1980²
208 Disasters each costing
≥ \$1 Billion
> \$1.1 Trillion

in total losses for the 208 events



In fact, the 2 costliest disasters in U.S. history both occurred since 2000.³

KATRINA (2005)



\$108 B

SANDY (2012)



\$68 B

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Disaster Declarations." <http://www.fema.gov/disasters> 2. National Centers for Environment Information (2016) Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters. Available online: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/> 3. Flynn, Stephen E., PhD, and George J. Kostas. International Resilience Symposium: Understanding Standards for Communities and Built Infrastructure Resilience. <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/gcr/2015/NIST.GCR.15-917-37.pdf> 4. Ibid. 5. Czajkowski, J., Done, J.M., & Simmons, K. (2016). Economic effectiveness of implementing a statewide building code: the case of Florida (Working Paper No. 2016-01). http://opim.wharton.upenn.edu/risk/library/WP201601_Simmons-Czajkowski-Done_Effectiveness-of-Florida-Building-Code.pdf 6. United States Government Accountability Office (2015). Hurricane Sandy: An Investment Strategy Could Help the Federal Government Enhance Resilience for Future Disasters. Rep. GAO-15-515. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-515>



And the federal government is paying for a rising share of disaster recovery.⁴

PERCENTAGE OF POST-DISASTER RECOVERY PAID BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (APPROX.)

1955
HURRICANE
DIANE



2005
HURRICANE
KATRINA



2012
HURRICANE
SANDY



Research Shows: Proactive investment in pre-disaster mitigation saves lives & taxpayer dollars.⁵



**\$1 INVESTED
IN PRE-DISASTER
MITIGATION =**



**~\$3-\$4 SAVED
IN FUTURE
DISASTER COSTS**



Yet, the U.S. spends 14x more on reactive, post-disaster mitigation.⁶

**1
PRE-DISASTER**



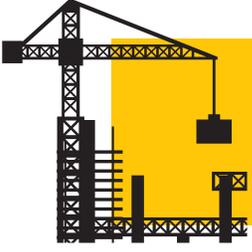
**14
POST-DISASTER**

FEMA DISASTER SPENDING RATIO 2011- 2014

It's time to fix the broken federal disaster spending system and

MAKE AMERICA RESILIENT AGAIN





National Mitigation Investment Agenda



WE MUST REFORM OUR NATION'S BROKEN DISASTER SPENDING MODEL TO SAVE LIVES AND TAX DOLLARS BY:

1. Encouraging States to Build Stronger



THE ISSUE: The federal government continues to invest more in post-disaster recovery than it does in pre-disaster prevention, despite research demonstrating that every \$1 invested pre-disaster saves \$3-4 post-disaster.



THE SOLUTION: Competitively award federal funding to help states proactively invest in stronger building standards pre-disaster, without requiring additional federal spending.

This can be accomplished by:

- Creating a National Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which awards funding to states to develop, implement, and enforce an approved statewide building code and other cost-effective mitigation activities
- Funding this grant program by shifting a percentage of the money appropriated to the Disaster Relief Fund to be invested pre-disaster to take advantage of the research-proven cost savings



THE ISSUE: Many states take a “wait and see” attitude because it’s easier to rely on federal post-disaster dollars – which cover the bulk of disaster recovery costs regardless of whether a state invested in pre-disaster mitigation – than to proactively reform broken state investment systems.



THE SOLUTION: Create federal incentives for states to invest proactively.

This can be accomplished by:

- Increasing the federal disaster recovery share to 85% (from 75%) for states that have taken FEMA-approved actions to reduce future disaster costs and losses
 - Providing FEMA with the discretion to lower the federal share to 60% for states that have failed to invest proactively
 - Providing states that have FEMA-approved resilient mitigation plans, including statewide building codes, in place pre-disaster with an extra 4% in post-disaster state hazard mitigation grants
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2. Improving the Federal Disaster Response



THE ISSUE: The U.S. is stuck in an endless cycle of “rebuild and repair” where structures are built back to the same outdated building codes after a disaster.



THE SOLUTION: Help states build to stronger standards post-disaster to prevent future damage.

This can be accomplished by:

- Establishing post-disaster hazard mitigation assistance funding that can be used to develop and enforce state building codes to fortify states against future disasters



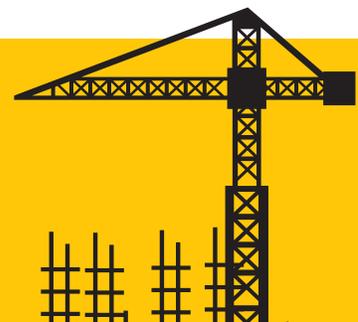
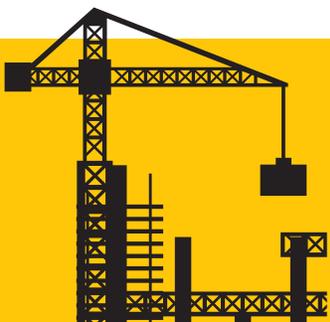
ISSUE: The federal response to disasters is fragmented (e.g. 19 agencies handled the Hurricane Sandy response), leading to a slower response that is often wasteful and confusing for disaster-stricken communities to navigate.



THE SOLUTION: Create a unified federal disaster response approach with strict spending standards to ensure effectiveness.

This can be accomplished by:

- Giving FEMA administrative control over all disaster response
- Applying FEMA's benefit-cost analysis – a strict numerical assessment to determine whether the benefits of a project are sufficient to justify the cost of implementing it – to all disaster relief funds





To learn how to Make America Resilient Again, go to buildstrongamerica.com.



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