



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

October 4, 2017

M-18-01

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Mick Mulvaney
Director

SUBJECT: Developing Agency Funding and Authorization Requests to Support Recovery and Rebuilding after Recent Hurricanes

As you know, we are in the midst of a very active hurricane season. The impacts of recent storms have disrupted millions of American lives and damaged many communities. Many of those affected by the storms are still suffering, and the U.S. Government must put these survivors' needs first. As the President said, we are one American family and we are 100 percent with the survivors of these disasters.

Agencies have the resources they need right now for short-term disaster recovery activities. In order to assist the hurricane survivors and the communities where they live, OMB plans to work closely with agencies to identify where additional funding or authorities may be necessary to support recovery and rebuilding from these recent hurricanes. I am asking you to provide OMB your agency's estimate of funding necessary for such efforts by October 25, 2017, based on the best available information. In order to produce meaningful recovery results, we will be undertaking a thorough and deliberative process for identifying long-term disaster recovery needs to yield better, more accurate requirements.

When assessing what costs should be considered, agencies should keep in mind the following principles:

- In general, only costs or required legislative authorities directly related to the damage caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria should be included.
- Costs for assistance programs should only be included in the response and recovery estimates when private and State efforts are not expected to be adequate, and when existing authorities and appropriations are not likely to be sufficient.
- Actions or activities mission-assigned to your agency by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—and reimbursed from the Disaster Relief Fund—should not be included. A FEMA mission assignment is a reimbursable work order for a specific task to be performed by an agency in support of a disaster response after a written request from FEMA.

- Agencies should not include funding for actions or activities an agency implemented in anticipation of a formal request for assistance from FEMA.
- Cost estimates for repair or replacement of damaged federally-owned assets should be provided. However, agencies should not use this process to address long-standing needs unrelated to disaster recovery projects for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria.

All potential funding and authorization requests must come through OMB. Additional technical guidance from OMB will be provided separately.

I want to underscore that the Administration is committed to ensuring that Federal resources to respond to these events are targeted to the most critical needs and administered in an efficient and effective manner. Unfortunately, disasters can sometimes provide cover and opportunity for corrupt individuals to perpetrate fraud by targeting disaster survivors. In the aftermath of a disaster, there are also frequently cases of waste and abuse, such as instances where benefits provided to survivors and communities have little nexus to recovery efforts, or where agencies continue to expend resources well beyond the period where it is reasonable to assume that recovery activities are continuing. As you consider your agency costs, please keep in mind that such wasteful or fraudulent activities will not be tolerated; they ultimately undermine public trust in the Federal Government's ability to respond to disasters. We are counting on you to provide this diligent oversight up-front and throughout the recovery process.