

There was a presentation from BIA Office of Emergency Management at the Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) Conference 2024, for USET SPF Resolution No. 2024:008 to fund a Tribal resiliency program for all tribes.

Tribal nations and tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to obtain funding for emergency management programs to support and meet the standards required by Homeland Security Act and Robert T. Stafford Act as well as standards developed by FEMA.

There are 28 federally recognized tribes in the state of Nevada, 6 tribes fund a full-time emergency manager, 18 tribal emergency managers hold multiple positions with their respective tribes and only 9 tribes are PL 638 contracted including the Washoe Tribe.

In the flood of 1997, the Washoe Tribe reported approximately 62 areas of flood damage from Woodfords to Stewart Ranch. Chairman Wallace requested direct FEMA funding to the affected tribes in Nevada, under an Executive Order from President Clinton directing federal agencies to operate within a government-to-government relationship with all federally recognized tribes on April 29, 1994. FEMA eventually directed the tribes to apply for assistance through their counties.

The Washoe Tribe opted into National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) on September 18, 2006, with the approval of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and later the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHP) in 2006. The Washoe Environmental Protection Department (WEPD) took on the responsibility of funding a part time emergency manager. The program was funded through the state of Nevada with Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) that provided \$20,000 that was required to be matched with a non-federal grant fund. In 2015 the state was announcing a change in the formula that would provide more EMPG funding to the larger counties in Nevada, leaving the tribes with less funding.

The Washoe Tribe did not have funding to provide for an emergency management program leaving training and planning on emergency plans outdated, CERT teams disengaged, and disasters were happening though the years in each community.

The resolution states Congress has allocated 55 billion in Homeland Security Grant Program funds to state and local governments while Tribal nations have been allocated 95 million in the same period. State and local governments were prepared and had the capacity to navigate the complex FEMA processes and receive billions in relief funding during COVID-19.

The failure to uphold trust and treaty obligations prevented tribes from accessing billions in lifesaving and emergency relief funds during COVID-19. During the response to COVID-19 Washoe Tribe staff were overworked, understaffed and unable to navigate FEMA processes. The finance team worked many hours to provide the documentation required for reimbursement of approximately \$120,000 which took approximately 3 years to recover from FEMA.

The USET resolution intends for BIA and BIA Office of Emergency Management to request funding for the Tribal resiliency program to promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination (PL 638 EM Contract). The funding would support a minimum of 3 full-time emergency management positions for each Tribal nation. The minimum funds requested are \$206.64 million (\$360,000 for each tribe annually) non-competitive, without cost share and streamlined at the Department of Interior to

empower all Tribal nations to build core emergency management, homeland security, and emergency services capacities and capabilities.

This summary is provided for the support of United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) Resolution No. 2024-:008 Support for the Establishment of a Tribal Resiliency Continuity Program at the Department of the Interior