

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2020

Chad Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

Peter Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Administrator Gaynor:

I write to urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ease the administrative burden for applicants, as well as state agencies that process applications, for the Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) competitive preparedness grants.

Each year, I hear from constituents that the competitive grant application process can be cumbersome under normal circumstances. Paperwork is convoluted, FEMA technical assistance is limited, and timelines are always very short. Toward that end, I appreciate that DHS and FEMA have already extended the deadline to apply for these grants until April 30, 2020. Now, as our nation faces a global pandemic, I urge you to find ways to assist applicants for the currently open grant application process for Fiscal Year 2020 competitive preparedness grants, such as the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which are slated to provide more than \$300 million dollars.

Given the nation's collective response to the coronavirus pandemic, including the constraints of social distancing, many applicants simply will not be able to complete their grant applications by the current state-mandated deadlines. Additionally, state level emergency management departments are already stretched thin responding to the pandemic and are therefore limited in their capacity to process these grant requests.

I ask that you instruct FEMA's Grants Directorate to, where possible, simplify and expedite the application process to ease the administrative burden on applicants that hope to access this critical funding, as well as on the state agencies that must process these applications. Right now, the nation needs innovation and ingenuity at every level of government to ensure that we can face our current challenges and still be ready to address those ahead.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests, and I look forward to working with you on these urgent matters.

With every good wish,



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator