



### Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance to state, tribal, and local government, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. We perform audits of FEMA grantees and subgrantees to determine whether costs claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. George County, Mississippi (County) received a hazard mitigation award of \$4.1 million to implement hazard mitigation measures following Hurricane Katrina.

### DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

## Contract Dispute Delaying Hurricane Shelters at George County, Mississippi: Interim Report on FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds Awarded to George County, MS

### What We Determined

We identified an issue during our audit of \$3.4 million provided for the construction of two emergency shelters in the County that required immediate attention by FEMA. Disputes between the County and its contractor were delaying the opening of the relatively complete storm shelters.

### What We Recommend

We recommended that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV, work closely with the State, County, and contractor representatives to resolve issues that are delaying the two shelter projects from being available to help protect County residents against hurricanes and other extreme weather events.

### For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at [DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov](mailto:DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov)