



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 cost claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. The City of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida (City) received an award of \$3.3 million for damages resulting from Hurricane Wilma that occurred in October 2005.

DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

For Further Information:

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

FEMA Should Recover \$129,248 of Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to City of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida -- Hurricane Wilma

What We Determined

FEMA should recover \$129,248 of grant funds awarded to the City. Although the City generally accounted for FEMA projects according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines, its claim included \$129,248 of ineligible costs that were either covered by insurance, or another Federal agency; or unsupported.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV:

- (1) Disallow \$45,372 for insurance recoveries not credited to FEMA projects unless the City can provide additional evidence showing that the insurance allocation was correct.
- (2) Disallow \$2,168 for Federal Highway Administration proceeds not credited to the FEMA award unless the City can provide additional evidence showing that the Federal Highway Administration funds should not be allocated to the FEMA project.
- (3) Disallow \$81,708 of unsupported contract charges billed for debris removal activities unless the City can provide additional evidence supporting those charges.