



Why This Matters

The Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grantee, awarded the East St. Tammany Events Center (Center) \$2.8 million for damages resulting from Hurricane Katrina, which occurred on August 29, 2005. FEMA provides such assistance to state, Tribal, and local governments, 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 subgrantees, focusing on grants with potential for problems and areas that are of interest to Congress and FEMA.

DHS Response

FEMA officials at the Louisiana Recovery Office generally agreed with our finding and recommendation. FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

East St. Tammany Events Center Generally Followed Regulations for Spending FEMA Public Assistance Funds

What We Determined

The Center accounted for and expended FEMA grant funds according to Federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. Center officials accounted for project costs on a project-by-project basis as required by Federal regulation and procured contracts using full and open competition. Project costs were also eligible and supported. However, we did identify \$111,335 of unneeded project funds that FEMA can deobligate and put to better use.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI deobligate and put to better use \$111,335 of unneeded Federal funding for Project 13843.

For Further Information:

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