



### 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 (County), Mississippi, received a Hazard Mitigation Grant award of \$4.1 million for damages resulting from Hurricane Katrina that occurred in August 2005.

### DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

## George County, Mississippi, Successfully Managed FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds - Hurricane Katrina

### What We Determined

George County (County), Mississippi successfully managed FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant funds. However, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) paid the County using incorrect Federal cost share rates, resulting in the County receiving a net Federal cost share overpayment of \$146,617. Also, the County did not adequately consider the past performance of a contractor it selected to construct two safe rooms, which contributed to delays in completing the safe rooms. Finally, MEMA did not adequately monitor the County's grant activities.

### What We Recommend

We recommend that FEMA Regional Administrator, Region IV:

1. Require MEMA to correct the net \$146,617 Federal overpayment.
2. Require MEMA to instruct the County of its responsibility to comply with Federal procurement regulations when procuring goods and services under a FEMA award.
3. Reemphasize to MEMA and Region Hazard Mitigation personnel of their responsibility to adequately monitor grant activities.

### 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)