



### Why This Matters

One significant role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during and after a disaster is to work with the state and identify any unmet needs and to coordinate Federal activities to fulfill these needs. One way FEMA facilitates the Federal response and recovery activities is through the use of mission assignments. Mission assignments are a way to task and reimburse other Federal departments and agencies for providing essential assistance prior to and after a disaster. Direct Federal assistance mission assignments pose a financial risk to the Federal Government due to the cost share with the state government.

### FEMA Response

FEMA was not required to respond to this report due to the recommendation being considered closed and implemented at the time of the exit conference.

## The State of NY Needs to Sign Mission Assignments More Quickly

### What We Determined

We determined that more than two months after Hurricane Sandy, New York had not signed 12 Direct Federal Assistance mission assignments totaling \$47 million. FEMA could have been responsible for about \$11.7 million if New York did not accept its 25 percent state financial responsibility for mission assigned tasks. While New York ultimately signed all mission assignments, these documents should have been signed much sooner and before the Office of Inspector General made inquiries.

### What We Recommend

We recommend that the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistant Administrator for Response:

- 1) Work with state of New York to sign the 12 mission assignments in question and eliminate the risk that FEMA would have to pay the state's cost share of \$11.7 million.

We consider the recommendation closed and implemented because FEMA had the state of New York sign these mission assignments in mid January 2013 after we started inquiring about their status.

### 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)