

Key Federal Policy Priorities advocated by American Flood Coalition Action as well as Flood Finder tool.

Key AFCA federal policy priorities included in House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee bipartisan FEMA reform bill.

Key federal priorities advocated for by American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA), the advocacy arm of AFC, are included in the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee bipartisan Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act. The legislation makes significant reforms to FEMA, including: Upfront funding: Communities will now receive project-based grants to rebuild infrastructure faster, rather than waiting years for reimbursement which strains local budgets.

Modernized processes: Practical reforms that open the door for innovative tech like drones and satellites in damage assessment. Less red tape: The legislation takes steps to simplify burdensome and duplicative processes, helping communities and individuals recover without navigating a maze of rules and time-consuming applications. One-stop application portal: A universal application will replace the current patchwork of forms, a game-changer for disaster survivors.

Clear denial and appeal process: Disaster survivors will now receive plain-language decisions, making it easier to understand and navigate appeals. Strengthening communities' ability to prepare for disasters: The legislation reforms the BRIC program to provide more flexibility to states to determine how to spend funds.

AFCA federal priority to permanently authorize the CDBG-DR program advanced by Senate Banking Committee

AFCA federal policy priority of permanent authorization of CDBG-DR was advanced this month by the Senate Banking Committee. Permanent authorization means states and communities will have a consistent, streamlined funding program for long-term recovery across disasters. It will speed up recovery, reduce bureaucracy, and help communities rebuild stronger and faster. When disasters strike, local leaders don't have time for bureaucracy when their towns are underwater or their schools are closed. They need clear answers, fast funding, and fewer obstacles. This bipartisan legislation is a powerful step in that direction.

Another longtime federal priority of AFCA, the universal disaster assistance application for survivors, was unanimously advanced by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC). The Disaster Assistance Simplification Act is a major step toward delivering faster, more effective disaster relief to survivors across the country.

One universal application for federal disaster aid

Simplified access across agencies

Streamlined recovery for disaster survivors

Applying for aid after a disaster is a time-consuming and complicated process, since individuals must fill out separate applications for each federal agency assisting in recovery, even though these applications are often duplicative and require the same information. By creating a universal application, the bill would help to reduce the burden on disaster survivors by making the process simpler, faster, and more accessible

The easiest way to find federal funds for flooding

Informed by our members, AFC's **Flood Funding Finder** is a free online tool that makes it easy to find federal grants that support flood resilience — and to filter for programs that best fit communities' needs.

To create this interactive website, we analyzed hundreds of programs across dozens of federal agencies to identify 30 federal funding opportunities that help communities address flooding.

With the Flood Funding Finder, you can...

- Learn about application deadlines and key information.
- See examples of successfully funded flood projects.
- Read short summaries of federal programs.

5 additional programs for transportation and nature-based solutions

We added **five programs** to the Flood Funding Finder. These programs support state and locally led flood-resilient transportation projects and planning, as well as cost-effective nature-based solutions that enhance ecosystem health and recreation, while reducing impacts from flooding.

You can find these programs on the Flood Funding Finder, or by clicking the links below.

National Highway Performance Program (DOT FHWA)

The [National Highway Performance Program](#) provides funds to states to raise or relocate roadways, stabilize slopes, improve drainage, and use nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk to the National Highway System.

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (DOT FHWA)

The [PROTECT program](#) supports both planning and implementation activities to make transportation infrastructure, evacuation routes, and coastal infrastructure more resilient to flooding. **Deadline: February 24, 2025.**

National Fish Passage Program (DOI FWS)

The [National Fish Passage Program](#) helps reduce flood risk and supports fish passage by restoring floodplains and wetlands, removing barriers like dams, and upgrading culverts. **Deadlines: December 31, 2024, for FY2024 funds; September 30, 2025, for FY2025 funds.**

Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program (EPA)

The [Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program](#) funds green and gray infrastructure projects that strengthen stormwater collection, improve flood resilience, and address water quality problems.

Emergency Watershed Protection and EWP Floodplain Easement Programs (USDA NRCS)

The [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#) is a disaster recovery program that can be used to remove debris, protect eroded streambanks, fix damaged drainage infrastructure, and purchase floodplain easements to restore land to its natural state

