



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 106
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT QUESTIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

1. Please provide the agency's mission statement.

Ensure DC agencies, businesses, and residents are prepared to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate, and recover from all threats and hazards.

2. Please provide a complete, up-to-date organizational chart for the agency and each division within the agency, including the names and titles of all senior personnel. Please include an explanation of the roles and responsibilities for each division and subdivision within the agency.
 - a. Please include a list of the employees (name and title) for each subdivision and the number of vacant, frozen, and filled positions. For vacant positions, please indicate how long the position has been vacant.
 - b. Please provide a narrative explanation of any major changes to the organizational chart made during the previous year.

Please see the attachment for the current organizational chart. No organizational changes were made during the previous year.

Director's Office:

Provides executive leadership and administrative authority over HSEMA.

Office of the Chief of Staff

Ensures forward-movement on the Director's strategic priorities, as well as order, process, and standardization development across HSEMA.

Office of the General Counsel:

Provides legal counsel and policy advice to the HSEMA Director. Supports the work of the Homeland Security Commission.

Office of Special Events:

Provides a portfolio of services in support of the interagency planning and coordination of special events.

Office of External Affairs:

HSEMA FY23 Oversight Responses

Manages external communications and public information; intergovernmental and legislative affairs; and stakeholder relations including the Business Emergency Management Operations Center (BEMOC) and Interfaith Preparedness Advisory Group (IPAG).

Mission Support Division:

Manages HSEMA's day-to-day enterprise activities. Key roles and responsibilities include:

- Grants Bureau: Manages the federal homeland security grant programs awarded to the District and the National Capital Region.
- Administration Bureau: Manages HSEMA's finances in accordance with District policies and priorities. Also manages, in coordination with DCHR, the recruitment and hiring of new HSEMA staff and contractors. Manages personnel issues across the agency.
- Information Technology (IT) Bureau: Manages, in coordination with OCTO, HSEMA's IT systems and other technological needs.
- Resilience Bureau: Manages the District's long-term recovery program. Administers and oversees the District's Hazard Mitigation Program. Within this Bureau, the Disability Integration Coordinator ensures the District's emergency management program effectively meets the needs of people with disabilities and those with access and functional needs.

Preparedness Division:

Manages HSEMA's resilience and emergency preparedness activities. Key roles and responsibilities include:

- Emergency Preparedness Bureau: Provides training and exercise opportunities to the District and develops the District's corrective action program. Creates planning products to meet the needs of HSEMA and key stakeholders within the District. Provides regional and sub-regional expertise to enhance preparedness capabilities, programs, and initiatives in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Outreach Bureau: Provides public awareness of emergency preparedness information to District residents, businesses, and visitors through a wide array of community engagement opportunities.

Strategic Intelligence Bureau (District of Columbia Fusion Center):

Manages HSEMA's homeland security and intelligence activities. Key roles and responsibilities include:

- Cyber Security: Collects, analyzes, responds to, and disseminates timely cyber threat information to and among the federal, state, local, and private sector agencies within the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Analysis: Focuses on unclassified production related to terrorism, crime, and public health for the public. Maintains the baseline capabilities of the fusion center and provides support to law enforcement, first responder, and critical infrastructure partners.
- Intelligence and Threat Prevention: Coordinates with DC and Federal partners to ensure real-time information sharing and intelligence needs are met by stakeholders. The Protect DC Initiative comprises a multidisciplinary team that supports and empowers

our partners in law enforcement, schools, government, and other public and private sector organizations to combat the evolving threat of targeted violence impacting communities across the District of Columbia.

Operations Division:

Manages HSEMA's steady-state and emergency operations activities. Key roles and responsibilities include:

- Situational Awareness (SA) Bureau: As the District's watch center, the Situational Awareness Bureau maintains 24/7 review and analysis of District incidents, events, and operations. Provides situational awareness of and coordinates resource requests for security and other incidents within the District. The Bureau also provides around-the-clock alert notifications and develops a common operating picture supporting coordination and collaboration on emerging incidents across the NCR.
- Response and Readiness Coordination (RRC) Bureau: Manages the District's Emergency Operation Center, oversees the District's Qualifications System, and processes Emergency Management Assistance Compact requests.
- Interoperable Bureau: The Interoperable Bureau supports the advancement of communications interoperability by coordinating and collaborating with emergency response leaders across all levels of government and emergency response disciplines to implement a statewide strategic vision for interoperability.
- Facility and Logistics Bureau: Manages building and personnel security, access to Agency facilities, HSEMA's vehicle fleet, and the Agency's warehouse.

3. Please list each new program implemented by the agency during FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date. For each initiative please provide:
 - a. A description of the initiative, including when begun and when completed (or expected to be completed);
 - b. The funding required to implement the initiative;
 - c. Any documented results of the initiative.

School Safety Program

In FY23, HSEMA provided support to the DC Public Schools (DCPS) and the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) for the development and implementation of school Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) to ensure up-to-date plans and drill documentation to ensure schools can respond to emergencies. SY (School Year) 23-24 was the first year that public charter schools submitted ERPs to CORE DC. CORE DC is the system of record for pre-, during, and post-incident activities, making it easier to maintain situational awareness, access critical information, and make data-driven decisions.

HSEMA partnered with the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education and local education agencies to host the first District-wide Campus Safety Summit, bringing together more than 450 school leaders and operations staff to share information and training and discuss safety and security requirements. Ninety percent of exit-survey participants indicated that the District-wide Campus Safety Summit provided them with the knowledge and skills to apply to their work.

The program was funded through the federal Homeland Security and Terrorism Prevention and Targeted Violence Prevention grant program.

Protect DC

Protect DC is a prevention program that utilizes a public health approach to identify and assess a person's risk of violence or serious harm, share information, and coordinate resources and services. Protect DC accepts anonymous referrals from community members and with its multidisciplinary team of behavioral health, human services, law enforcement, and legal professionals, works to identify, assess, and coordinate intervention strategies to prevent the risk of violence or serious harm.

In FY23, Protect DC received 39 referrals from government partners, private industry, and community members resulting in two threat assessment and management cases. The program has several accomplishments, such as providing investigative support to Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) detectives and other law enforcement partners, providing training on behavioral threat assessment and management to 300 community members to identify risk factors and warning signs of potential violence. The program measured a 10% knowledge gain of participants, demonstrating an increased awareness of the risk factors and warning signs of violence. The program was funded through the federal Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant program.

4. Please provide a complete, up-to-date position listing for your agency, ordered by program and activity, and including the following information for each position:
 - a. Title of position;
 - b. Name of employee or statement that the position is vacant, unfunded, or proposed;
 - c. Date employee began in position;
 - d. Salary and fringe benefits (separately), including the specific grade, series, and step of position;
 - e. Job status (continuing/term/temporary/contract);
 - f. Whether the position must be filled to comply with federal or local law.

Please note the date that the information was collected.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

5. Please provide a list of all memoranda of understanding ("MOU") entered into by your agency during FY 23 and FY 24, to date, as well as any MOU currently in force. For each, indicate the date on which the MOU was entered and the termination date (if applicable).

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

6. Please provide a list of each collective bargaining agreement that is currently in effect for agency employees.
 - a. Please include the bargaining unit (name and local number), the duration of each agreement, and the number of employees covered.

HSEMA FY23 Oversight Responses

- b. Please provide, for each union, the union leader's name, title, and his or her contact information, including e-mail, phone, and address if available.
Please note if the agency is currently in bargaining and its anticipated completion date.

HSEMA is not currently engaged in bargaining over the collective bargaining agreement.

NAGE Local R3-08
President: Lisa White
1015 Half Street SE, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20032
Desk: 202-481-3172
Cell: 202-734-1355

Please see the attached NAGE R3-08 collective bargaining agreement.

7. Please provide the agency's FY 2023 Performance Accountability Report.

The HSEMA FY23 PAR is provided in the attachments.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

8. Please provide a chart showing the agency's approved budget and actual spending, by division, for FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date. In addition, please describe any variance between fiscal year appropriations and actual expenditures for each program and activity code.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

9. Please list any reprogrammings, in, out, or within, related to FY 2023 or FY 2024 funds. For each reprogramming, please list:
- The reprogramming number;
 - The total amount of the reprogramming and the funding source (i.e., local, federal, SPR);
 - The sending or receiving agency name, if applicable;
 - The original purposes for which the funds were dedicated;
 - The reprogrammed use of funds.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

10. Please provide a complete accounting for all intra-District transfers received by or transferred from the agency during FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date, including:
- Buyer agency and Seller agency;
 - The program and activity codes and names in the sending and receiving agencies' budgets;
 - Funding source (i.e. local, federal, SPR);
 - Description of MOU services;

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- e. Total MOU amount, including any modifications;
- f. The date funds were transferred to the receiving agency.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

11. Please provide a list of all MOUs in place during FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date, that are not listed in response to the question above.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

12. Please identify any special purpose revenue accounts maintained by, used by, or available for use by your agency during FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date. For each account, please list the following:
- a. The revenue source name and code;
 - b. The source of funding;
 - c. A description of the program that generates the funds;
 - d. The amount of funds generated by each source or program in FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date;
 - e. Expenditures of funds, including the purpose of each expenditure, for FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date.

HSEMA does not receive, maintain, use, or have available for use, any special purpose revenue funds.

13. Please provide a list of all projects for which your agency currently has capital funds available. Please include the following:
- a. A description of each project, including any projects to replace aging infrastructure (e.g., water mains and pipes);
 - b. The amount of capital funds available for each project;
 - c. A status report on each project, including a timeframe for completion;
 - d. Planned remaining spending on the project.

HSEMA received \$4M in capital funding to accomplish one project: the renovation of the District's Emergency Operations Center. To date, HSEMA has worked with the architectural/engineering (A/E) vendor to complete the design development phase and permit/construction documentation phases and will work with the Department of General Services to initiate the construction solicitation process in May 2024. The anticipated completion date is 12-18 months after the construction commences. HSEMA anticipates a fully ratified construction contract in September 2024 and initiating construction in February 2025. To date, HSEMA has spent \$268,942.75 and obligated \$288,469 in capital funds. The remaining balance will be obligated in September 2024 when the construction contract is ratified.

14. Please provide a complete accounting of all federal grants received for FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date, including the amount, the purpose for which the funds were granted,

whether those purposes were achieved and, for FY 2023, the amount of any unspent funds that did not carry over.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

15. Please list each contract, procurement, lease, and grant (“contract”) awarded, entered into, extended and option years exercised, by your agency during FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date. For each contract, please provide the following information, where applicable:
 - a. The name of the contracting party;
 - b. The nature of the contract, including the end product or service;
 - c. The dollar amount of the contract, including budgeted amount and actually spent;
 - d. The term of the contract;
 - e. Whether the contract was competitively bid or not;
 - f. The name of the agency’s contract monitor and the results of any monitoring activity;
 - g. Funding source;
 - h. Whether the contract is available to the public online.

Please see the attached file for answers to this question.

16. Please provide the details of any surplus in the agency’s budget for FY 2023, including:
 - a. Total amount of the surplus;
 - b. All projects and/or initiatives that contributed to the surplus.

HSEMA’s local funds surplus was less than \$37,000. This minimal surplus was due to supply chain shortages and delays which impacted vendors’ ability to meet the September 30 delivery deadline.

HSEMA’s federal funds surplus was \$7.9M. This surplus was due to a few multi-year grants having unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year. However, these unspent funds have been treated as carry-over and budgeted in FY24.

17. For FY 2023 and FY 2024 to date, please provide the number of contracts and procurements executed by your agency. Please indicate how many contracts and procurements were for an amount under \$250,000, how many were for an amount between \$250,000-\$999,999, and how many were for an amount over \$1 million.

>\$250,000	128
\$250,000 - \$999,999	6
Total	134

LAWS, AUDITS, AND STUDIES

18. Please list and describe any ongoing investigations, audits, or reports on your agency or any employee of your agency, or any investigations, studies, audits, or reports on your agency or any employee of your agency that were completed during FY 2023 or FY 2024, to date.

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The Office of the Inspector General opened an investigation in 2021 relating to allegations a HSEMA contractor held other employment during time the employee was performing duties for the District Government. OIG has not provided HSEMA with findings related to the investigation. HSEMA considers the matter open until such time OIG provides an official determination. HSEMA is cooperating fully with the investigation.

19. Please list any reports the agency is required by Council legislation to prepare and whether the agency has met these requirements.
- a. Are there any required regular reports that the agency believes are unduly burdensome and/or underutilized by the Council or the public? If so, please provide details on each such report and, to the extent feasible, an estimate of the budget and/or person-hours required to prepare each report.

HSEMA is currently drafting annual reports, required by legislation, for Continuity of Operations and the DC Fusion Center. These are not unduly burdensome or underutilized.

20. Please list all lawsuits filed in FY23 or FY24, to date that name the agency as a party, and provide the case name, court where claim was filed, case docket number, and a brief description of the case.

Patrice White V. District of Columbia Government Case no. 1:22-cv-03740 filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on December 15, 2022. This suit filed by a former employee alleges discrimination in employment based on race, gender, age, and disability.

21. Please list all settlements entered into by the agency or by the District on behalf of the agency in FY 2023 or FY 2024, to date, including any covered by D.C. Code § 2-402(a)(3), and provide the parties' names, the amount of the settlement, and if related to litigation, the case name and a brief description of the case. If unrelated to litigation, please describe the underlying issue or reason for the settlement (e.g. administrative complaint, etc.).

HSEMA did not enter into any monetary settlements agreements of any disputes within the responsive period.

22. Please list any administrative complaints or grievances that the agency received in FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date, broken down by source. Please describe the process utilized to respond to any complaints and grievances received and any changes to agency policies or procedures that have resulted from complaints or grievances received. For any complaints or grievances that were resolved in FY 2023 or FY 2024, to date, describe the resolution.

Office of Human Rights:

No complaints were served upon the agency during the responsive period.

The process for responding to complaints of this nature is set forth by OHR. Employees who perceive a violation of the District of Columbia Human Rights Act must attempt to resolve this concern through an Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. The EEO officer will contact the agency and attempt to resolve the employee's concern. EEO contacts do not always become a complaint as defined by OHR's rules. The employee may reach an acceptable resolution to the concern. If the concern is not resolved to the satisfaction of the employee, the employee will receive an exit letter.

After receiving the exit letter, the employee may then request the OHR complaint process. OHR is required to docket the complaint and file formal notice upon the agency. HSEMA keeps a record of all OHR complaints served upon the agency, and HSEMA consults this list when required to list any complaints served upon the agency.

HSEMA responds to OHR complaints consistent with the rules set forth by OHR. HSEMA provides a written response within the time allotted. This response includes a statement of facts, a dispute of any allegations made by the employee which the agency believes are inaccurate, a recitation of any affirmative defenses, and supporting documents. HSEMA's response to OHR complaints is prepared by HSEMA's General Counsel with assistance from HSEMA's Human Resource team.

From the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE Labor Union):

Grievances pursuant to Article 24 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

December 8, 2023, NAGE filed a grievance pursuant to Article 24 of the CBA alleging a violation of Article 27 which governs temporary promotions.

Demands to bargain pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-617.06

January 12, 2024, NAGE filed a demand to bargain related to the District Government's proposed telework policy. HSEMA is one of the listed agencies.

December 11, 2023, NAGE filed a demand to bargain related to HSEMA scope of work ("Floater position") and scheduling within the Situational Awareness Bureau.

November 9, 2023, NAGE filed a demand to bargain related to a perceived elimination of a Lead position by HSEMA management.

January 31, 2023, NAGE filed a demand to bargain related to perceived HSEMA Realignment/Reorganization.

The process for responding to grievances is set forth in article 24 of the CBA. HSEMA adheres to this process.

Demands to bargain are authorized by district law. HSEMA works with the office of labor relations and collective bargaining to respond to such demands as required by law and precedent from the Public Employee Relations Board.

WORKPLACE ISSUES AND EQUITY

23. Please describe the agency’s procedures for investigating allegations of sexual harassment or misconduct committed by or against its employees. List and describe any allegations received by the agency in FY 2023 and FY 2024, to date, and whether and how those allegations were resolved.

HSEMA follows the guidance for investigating allegations of sexual harassment in accordance with Mayor’s Order 2023-131 Updated Sexual Harassment Policy, Guidance and Procedures. HSEMA management and Human Resources follows the guidance for allegations of misconduct in accordance with District Personnel Instruction No. 16-18.

The agency has not received any allegations of sexual harassment or misconduct in FY23 and FY24, to date.

24. The District defines racial equity as “the elimination of racial disparities such that race no longer predicts opportunities, outcomes, or the distribution of resources for residents of the District, particularly for persons of color and Black residents.” What are three areas, programs, or initiatives within your agency where you see the most opportunity to make progress toward racial equity?

Achieving racial equity is both a process and an outcome and HSEMA is embarking on a journey of continuous improvement and cultural humility by proactively centering equity in our resilience and preparedness efforts. One such initiative is reconvening the Emergency Preparedness Council. This forum for collaboration and problem solving among agency leadership from member agencies brings diverse perspectives, fosters collective action, and advances racial equity in emergency preparedness. It has the capacity to positively impact HSEMA’s incident management protocols and outcomes.

Additionally, HSEMA is collaborating with the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to develop a comprehensive assessment of the Resilient DC and Climate DC plans to ensure the agency has an actionable plan in the future. This assessment includes a critical racial equity analysis of both plans, along with a dedicated workshop specifically focused on this important aspect. Additionally, we are partnering with a public engagement firm to guarantee direct community involvement, prioritizing those communities most affected by climate change.

HSEMA has strategically embedded the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer and Disability, Access and Functional Needs (DAFN) Officer directly within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Planning section. This crucial integration ensures that potential impacts on underserved and overburdened communities are systematically considered and addressed throughout every stage of planning and response. This proactive approach translates into tangible action.

For instance, during a recent water pod distribution incident, agency EDI and DAFN officers played a pivotal role in safeguarding equitable access. They collaborated to develop a targeted list of questions for the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) to ask residents during the distribution process. These questions aimed to identify and address potential barriers faced by our most vulnerable community members, including but not limited to, individuals with disabilities, language limitations, or transportation challenges. Incorporating this layer of equity focused inquiry into this process allowed HSEMA to have an equitable and inclusive response, and prioritize water delivery for residents that needed it most.

25. In FY23 and FY24, to date, what are two ways that your agency has addressed racial inequities internally or through the services you provide?

HSEMA has addressed racial inequities through our Racial Equity Action Plan, which was created in FY22. The plan consists of four distinct goals with subsequent actions, timelines, and performance measures HSEMA will take to make meaningful progress toward a more racially equitable city. The first goal is to ensure HSEMA staff understands and is committed to achieving racial equity. To date, 100% of HSEMA managers have been trained on Advancing Racial Equity- The Role of Government. Recognizing that this training would be beneficial to our entire agency and our partners, HSEMA is developing a District specific and emergency management focused racial equity training that highlights the disproportionate impacts, both in severity of harm and access to resources, to communities of color during a disaster or emergency. The agency has also implemented racial equity tools, such as the Racial Equity Impact Assessment, to serve as a review guide for plans, policies, funding allocations and other important decision points through racial equity and accessibility lenses. This resource ensures agency decisions are aligned with organizational racial equity goals and desired outcomes.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

26. Please describe all events and incidents in FY23 and FY24, to date, for which the agency coordinated response operations across all District government agencies.

In FY23, HSEMA coordinated response operations to the following events and incidents:

FY23:

- a. Hurricane Ian Emergency Management Assistance Compact Request – deployment to Florida (October 2023)

HSEMA FY23 Oversight Responses

- b. US-Africa Leaders' Summit (NSSE) (December 2023)
- c. January 6, 2023 First Amendment Activity (January 2023)
- d. 2023 State of the Union Address (February 2023)
- e. 2023 March First Amendment Activities (March 2023)
- f. 900 blk of 52nd St NE Building Fire (March 2023)
- g. 4240 Massachusetts Avenue SE Building Fire (April 2023)
- h. Emancipation Day Parade/Cherry Blossom Festival (April 2023)
- i. Fort Lincoln Building Fire (April 2023)
- j. 2600 Adams Mill Road Building Fire (May 2023)
- k. Boil Water Advisory (May 2023)
- l. Cyber Security Incident (June 2023)
- m. Hazardous Air Quality (June 2023)
- n. 5811 Field Place NE Building Fire
- o. Fourth of July Celebration 2023 (July 2023)
- p. 1810 Mississippi Avenue Roof Collapse (July 2023)
- q. 2412 Franklin St NE Water Outage (July 2023)
- r. Hot Weather Emergency (July 2023)
- s. 1855 Good Hope Rd SE Building Fire (July 2023)
- t. July 29 Severe Storm (July 2023)
 - i. 3220 Wisconsin Ave NW Storm Damage
 - ii. 1218 Queen St NE Storm Damage
- u. President Trump's DC Court Appearance (August 2023)
- v. August 7 Severe Storm (August 2023)
- w. August 14 Severe Storm (August 2023)
- x. Rhode Island Ave NE Flash Flood (August 2023)
- y. March on Washington 2023 (August 2023)
- z. 1300 Morris St SE Residential Displacement (September 2023)

FY24:

- a. 1408 Wisconsin Ave Structural Integrity (October 2023)
- b. Kenilworth Ave and Douglas St NE Bridge Collision (October 2023)
- c. November 14 First Amendment Activity (November 2023)
- d. November 17 First Amendment Activity (November 2023)
- e. 4012 Kansas Ave NW Building Fire (December 2023)
- f. 1634 North Capitol St NW Building Fire (December 2023)
- g. December 18 Storm Impacts (December 2023)
- h. 621 Lamont St NW Building Fire (January 2024)
- i. January 6 Winter Weather (January 2024)
- j. 808 Bladensburg Rd NE Building Fire (January 2024)
- k. January 9 Severe Weather (January 2024)
- l. 5509 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave NE Building Fire (January 2024)
- m. January 13 First Amendment Activity (January 2024)
- n. January 14-19 Winter Weather (January 2024)
- o. January 14-22 Cold Weather Emergency (January 2024)
- p. January 19-21 Boil Water Advisory (January 2024)

27. Please describe the mission of the Fusion Center and its activities during FY23 and FY24, to date.

The District of Columbia Fusion Center (“DC Fusion Center”) – based in HSEMA – is a 24/7/365 all-hazards fusion center that provides situational awareness and strategic analysis of regional threats and hazards while enhancing value-added information sharing among our vetted stakeholders.

The DC Fusion Center is a primary focal point within the NCR and the District of Columbia for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat and hazard-related information among federal and state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners. The DC Fusion Center provides interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of District government. The DC Fusion Center conducts analysis and facilitates information sharing to assist law enforcement, homeland security, and District government partners in preventing, protecting against, and responding to all threats and hazards.

Each year, the DC Fusion Center produces various alerts, notifications, intelligence products, Posts of Concern (POCs), and Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and responds to various requests for information. In FY23, the DC Fusion Center produced:

- 8,490 Alert DC Notifications;
- 3,209 HSEMA Alerts Notifications;
- 1,015 Regional Incident Communication and Coordination System (RICCS) Notifications across 517 incidents;
- 409 SARs;
- 248 POCs;
- 170 Terrorist Screening Center (TSCs) requests; and
- 39 Referrals resulting in two threat assessment and management cases.

28. Please describe the activities of the Homeland Security Commission in FY23 and FY24, to date.

For FY23 and FY24, the Homeland Security Commission (HSC) met eight times (December 14, 2023, November 3, 2023, September 21, 2023, August 30, 2023, July 13, 2023, May 24, 2023, March 16, 2023, and February 9, 2023). There are currently two vacancies on the HSC, and the Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) continues to seek and interview candidates. Currently, the HSC is working on an annual report, with HSEMA providing administrative and subject matter experts to assist in report development.

29. How did HSEMA improve collective situational awareness and coordination among District agencies and District residents in the event of a mass emergency in FY23 and FY24, to date?

- a. Please provide an update on the activities of the Mobile Situational Awareness Teams.

HSEMA has scaled back on the use of Mobile Situational Awareness Teams (MSAT) throughout FY23 and at the beginning of FY24. HSEMA leveraged these teams only a handful of times, primarily for incidents such as flooding (July 29 Severe Storms) and for situational awareness during special events to ensure agencies have a common operating picture for what is occurring at an event or incident and if that event or incident requires additional resources or personnel, or the need for coordinated public information.

- b. Did HSEMA conduct any tabletop exercises or drills to practice how to respond to future large-scale events? If so, please explain. HSEMA has conducted several exercises in FY23 and to date in FY24.

Yes. As an initial test of the new Half Street facility, in May 2023, HSEMA held a hurricane “game day” that incorporated all of the new physical and technology systems. In June 2023 the District’s new Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center at 1015 Half St. was exercised to test operational readiness for the first real-world activation on July 4, 2023. That day, by coincidence, the EOC and Joint Information Center (JIC) had to transition to an official activation to respond to what would become the District’s first hazardous air quality incident. HSEMA conducted several such events in FY23 and plans to hold similar ones in FY24, all listed below.

FY23

- On August 25, 2023, HSEMA hosted a tabletop exercise on Hurricane readiness that was attended by the Mayor, many District agency directors, and other District preparedness personnel.
- In September 2023, HSEMA assisted OCTO with conducting a tabletop exercise for the Network Operations Center (NOC).
- On September 26 HSEMA, in collaboration with DC Water and other partners, conducted a tabletop exercise on water outages and bottled water distribution.
- From September 25, 2023 through 27, 2023, HSEMA hosted a three-day Basic Public Information Officer (PIO) course, produced by FEMA, for several District and regional PIOs.

FY24

- On November 16, 2023, HSEMA hosted a winter weather preparedness workshop attended by the City Administrator and representatives from key District agencies responsible for winter weather operations.

HSEMA upcoming schedule includes an executive-level cyber exercise this spring, a crisis communications tabletop exercise this spring or summer, a multi-day offering of FEMA’s Advanced Public Information Officer (PIO) training this spring, and then the capstone week-long Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) this summer. FEMA delivers the IEMC, which combines elements of targeted topical training on the District’s threats and hazards and team-based exercises for the interagency team that staffs the Emergency Operations Center. This course is by application only to FEMA and

is a critical component of the District's broader preparations for the upcoming Presidential Inauguration in January 2025.

There are several large-scale NSSEs (National Special Security Events) planned over the next year. Each of these will include a structured exercise process, hosted by FEMA, that integrates District agencies with our state and Federal partners. In addition, the planning process for each of these involves a regular cadence of preparedness meetings, so HSEMA is always training with its partners.

30. Please provide an update on Alert DC during FY23 and FY24, to date.

a. Please provide the number of new subscribers in FY23 and FY24, to date.

FY23(Oct 1, 2022 – Sept 30, 2023) – 8,423 new Alert DC registrations.
FY24 (Oct 1, 2023 – January 19, 2024) – 2,687 new Alert DC registrations.

b. How has this program been used to communicate important information? Please provide specific examples where possible.

AlertDC, as the District's emergency notification system, is the main notification system for the general public. The platform is used to communicate anything from traffic closures or delays to Amber and Silver alerts, severe weather advisories, and other threats and hazards that impact some or all areas of the District. Specific examples include notifications about poor air quality in Summer 2023, planned road closures for special events and rolling road closures due to first amendment activity, traffic impacts to the Eckington neighborhood during a two-alarm fire, and planned transportation changes or interruptions due to road, bridge, and/or tunnel work.

c. Please describe the agency's relationship with the U.S. Capitol Police in terms of sharing timely and relevant security and public safety information to inform residents living near the U.S. Capitol Complex.

HSEMA has a close relationship and direct communications channels with USCP to amplify their alert information related to activities or incidents on the Capitol grounds that have the potential to impact the broader community. USCP generates the messages and sends them to HSEMA through either the watch desk or the Joint Information Center. HSEMA then amplifies the message using the appropriate alerting tool.

31. As you know, Chairwoman Pinto has asked HSEMA to work to ensure that AlertDC, or another similar program, is providing real-time updates on public safety incidents, such as shootings—specifically to schools that may be impacted by nearby incidents. The Committee understands that HSEMA has been working to implement such a system. Please provide an update on the status of this work.

In FY23, HSEMA convened public safety and education agencies to identify and review protocols for campus notifications as well as the triggers that school leaders follow to change a school's security posture during an active incident, investigation, or emerging threat determined to impact the safety or well-being of the occupants of a school.

Based on those discussions, there will be three lines of agency effort and focus in FY24:

- 1) Providing better and easier-to-access refresher training on the approach to the security escalations;
- 2) Identifying the best tool or method to give school leaders the information that they need to effectively escalate security posture; and
- 3) A more programmatic approach to capturing data on escalations to help with targeted training and tools for school leaders.

In addition to our regular and ongoing support to school safety planning, HSEMA will be supporting these new lines of effort by helping DCPS with messaging and on-line training; evaluating and customizing one of its tools for alerting school leaders; and working with DCPS and the DCPCSB to develop information collection opportunities to evaluate the efficacy of these efforts.

32. Please provide a list of all major special events that HSEMA monitored in FY23 and FY24, to date.
- a. Please describe how the agency responded to each event.

Below is a list of special events monitored by HSEMA in FY23 and FY24, to date. HSEMA's response efforts for these events included operational coordination, situational awareness, and resource support.

FY23

- DC Open Streets (Georgia Avenue)*
- Snallygaster*
- Army Ten-Miler*
- Turkish Festival*
- Howard University Homecoming*
- High Heel Race
- Marine Corps Marathon*
- National Native Americans Veterans Memorial Ceremony*
- National Christmas Tree Lighting*
- U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Parade
- Lunar New Year Parade*
- State of the Union Address
- Rock N Roll Half Marathon and 5K*
- National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade*
- Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival*

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- Emancipation Day Celebration*
- Emancipation Day Celebration II (BLM Plaza)
- National Law Enforcement Memorial (NLEM) 34th Annual Candlelight Vigil*
- United House of Prayer Parade*
- Asian Heritage Festival*
- Thunder Alley*
- National Memorial Day Parade*
- DC Open Streets (12th Street/Brookland)*
- Capital Pride Celebration Events*
- Juneteenth Celebration on BLM Plaza
- National Capital BBQ Battle*
- Independence Day Celebration*
- 2023 CNN Fourth in America Special
- Major League Soccer All-Star Game
- DC Bike Ride*
- H Street Festival*
- Fiesta DC Festival and Parade*
- World Culture Festival*
- Art All Night Activations

FY24

- DC Open Streets (Georgia Avenue)*
- Snallygaster*
- Army Ten-Miler*
- Turkish Festival*
- Howard University Homecoming*
- High Heel Race*
- Marine Corps Marathon*
- National Veterans Day Parade*
- FitDC Fresh Start 5K
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Parade

*HSEMA deployed the mobile command vehicle for enhanced on-site interagency field operations for these events.

33. Please describe the work of the Mayor’s Special Events Task Group (“MSETG”) in FY23 and FY24, to date, including any changes to its reporting structure within the Executive branch, membership, operations, policies, procedures, and member agency fees.

The MSETG held 20 meetings in FY23 and five meetings in FY24, to date, for the purpose of providing interagency reviews and assessments of the operational, public safety, and logistical components of proposals for special events occurring on public roadways under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. The Meeting Activity Report (attachment Q33) provides a list of the proposed events reviewed and assessed by the MSETG for production

during FY23 and FY24, to date. The MSETG's reporting structure within the Executive Branch remains under the Executive Office of the Mayor (via the Office of the Chief of Staff). There were no changes to the MSETG's membership, operations, procedures, or member agency fees in FY23 and FY24, to date.

- a. How many interagency reviews and assessments of proposals for special events did the agency review in FY23 and FY24, to date?

The MSETG processed 93 special event proposals in FY23, and 16 special event proposals in FY24, to date.

- b. Did special event user fees as determined by each respective agency in the MSETG increase in FY23 and FY24, to date? (If necessary, to answer the question, please consult with agency partners).

No agency fees were increased in FY23 and FY24, to date.

- c. How many event organizers submitted after-action reports subsequent to the production of their events in FY23 and FY24, to date? How many did not?

While after-action reviews and discussions are conducted with each event organizer prior to the initiation of planning for the upcoming production of an event, organizers also have an additional opportunity to submit after-action reports. Based on events produced in FY23, 17 event organizers have submitted reports and 47 have not, thus far. Based on events produced in FY24 to date, five event organizers have submitted reports and 15 have not, thus far. Event organizers have an opportunity to participate in after-action reporting up to the time of meeting with the MSETG to initiate planning for a subsequent production of the event in the following year. When there are issues or problems identified with the production of an event, organizers are required to participate in an after-action meeting and/or meet any after-action requirements as determined necessary by a member agency to implement measures to address any identified deficiencies prior to the MSETG's consideration of an event for conditional approval in a subsequent year.

- d. What new requirements did the MSETG or its member agencies impose upon event organizers in FY23 and FY24, to date, related to homeland security concerns (e.g. sandbags, placement of vehicles to block access)?

There were no new requirements imposed upon event organizers by any MSETG member agency in FY23 and FY24, to date.

34. Please provide an update on the agency's continued work on implementation of the District Government Continuity of Operations Plans Amendment Act of 2020, effective March 16, 2021 (D.C. Law 23-0219) in FY23 and FY24, to date.

HSEMA continues to work with agencies to meet the requirements of DC Code § 7–2231.11. Approximately 2/3 of the 79 District agencies subject to these requirements were in full compliance for FY23. All agencies, including independent agencies, are required to:

- Designate primary and backup Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) coordinators.
- Update their COOP plan annually.
- Exercise their plan annually and submit an after-action report.

HSEMA sends frequent communications to a distribution list of approximately 150 COOP coordinators providing consistent reminders of the compliance requirements and offering various forms of resources and technical assistance. The District COOP Program Manager sent multiple notices to agencies throughout the past year providing plan templates, training resources, exercise guidance and opportunities, and reminders on the requirements of DC Code § 7–2231.11.

35. Please describe the activities of HSEMA’s Interfaith Preparedness and Advisory Group in FY23 and FY24, to date.
- a. How does the agency ensure that faith institutions are able to access timely and relevant information and maintain points of contact within the agency?

The Interfaith Preparedness Advisory Group (IPAG) is a joint effort between the Mayor’s Office of Religious Affairs (MORA), MPD, and HSEMA to encourage dialogue with the District’s faith-based organizations (FBOs) to help them enhance preparedness for all types of hazards. Over the past year, IPAG has convened several meetings and sent out information relating to local incidents and events as well as local and Federal training resources. Please see the answer to Question 41 for more information.

- b. What grants did HSEMA make to faith institutions in FY23 and FY24, to date, and for what purposes?

Please see the attached information on grants to faith institutions. HSEMA looks forward to assisting faith and other non-profit institutions with applications to the FY24 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), but this program is waiting for the passage of a new Federal FY24 budget. The Continuing Resolutions (CRs) passed by Congress have not included NSGP funds.

36. Please provide an update on the funding received from FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (“BRIC”) grant program in FY23 and the projects for which the funding was awarded. What portion of the funding for each of these projects has been allocated and/or spent, and what work has been done to date on each project? What is HSEMA’s role in these projects?

For the FY23 funding cycle (FEMA’s FY22 awards), DC received \$10.3M in Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants funding including BRIC grants to support resilience by addressing flood risks at affordable housing buildings, improving access to community

emergency services at recreation centers, and improving the District’s investment in nature-based solutions. Specifically:

1. STORM

- Resilient for All Revolving Loan Fund (\$6.2M federal, \$620,000 local)
 - Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF), and Green Bank received funding to co-invest with the HPTF. This funding will enable HSEMA to offer 1% interest loans addressing the stormwater management needs at affordable housing buildings to be administered by DC Green Bank.

2. BRIC (state set-aside)

- Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision (\$120,000 federal, \$37,500 local)
 - The current DC Water Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in 2024, these funds will support efforts to revise and re-approve the plan in order to receive funding from FEMA’s grant programs. DC Water is the lead partner for this application.
- Outreach and Engineering Technical Assistance Project Scoping (\$1,063,876 federal, \$337,738.41 local)
 - This project will be led by HSEMA. It is designed so that we have flexibility to support other District agencies in hazard mitigation related outreach, design, and development of future grant applications. Various agency partners will coordinate during the implementation of this project and serve as in-kind contributions towards the cost share.
- Deane Avenue Stormwater Pump Station Power Resiliency Project (\$816,124 federal, \$1,088,166 local)
 - The goal is to design and complete the construction of power resilience improvements at the Deane Avenue stormwater pump station. This project will include floodproofing and infrastructure improvements to protect the pump station from power outages during multi-hazard events. DC Water is the lead partner for this application.
- Management cost (\$346,340.44 in federal share, \$0 local)
 - When awarded, HSEMA will receive up to 10% of the award funding for management costs to support program efforts including technical assistance activities for future project development.

3. BRIC (national competition)

- Eastern Avenue Stormwater Pump Station Power Resiliency Project (\$670,750 federal, \$268,300 local)
 - DC Water applied for the design and construction of power resilience improvements at the Eastern Avenue stormwater pump station. This project will include floodproofing and infrastructure improvements to protect the pump station from power outages during multi-hazard events.
- Management cost (\$93,904.90 federal share, \$0 local)
 - When awarded, HSEMA will receive up to 10% of the award funding for management costs to support program efforts including technical assistance activities for future project development.

4. FMA (national competition)
 - Neighborhood-Scale Flood Resilience Planning Based on the Integrated Flood Model (\$960,000 federal, \$300,000 local)
 - The goal of this scope is to move the District from the development of the Integrated Flood Model to the implementation of mitigation projects in the SFHA based on a new understanding of flood risk. DOEE is the lead agency for this application.
 - Management cost (\$126,000 in federal share, \$0 local)
 - When awarded, HSEMA will receive up to 10% of the award funding for management costs to support program efforts including technical assistance activities for future project development.

37. Regarding the St. Elizabeths East Campus microgrid project:

- a. What is the status of the project?

HSEMA is actively working with Ameresco, DGS, and OAG to reach a final agreement on the Power Purchase Agreement language so that the award package is ready for Council submission. Additionally, HSEMA was recently invited to participate in the ANC 8C January meeting to introduce the project to community members. This effort was led by Ameresco's community engagement team in close coordination with HSEMA, DMPED and DOEE. Meanwhile, Ameresco is developing the design of the microgrid system in coordination with each of the oftakers.

- b. What is HSEMA's role in this project?

HSEMA plays a leadership role on this project and leads the multiagency coordination efforts in close coordination with DGS, DMPED, and DOEE.

- c. The District received \$20 million in federal funding through the BRIC grant program to support this project. How long does the District have to spend or commit this funding before we risk losing the funding?

If design and construction exceed the three-year term limit of the grant, HSEMA could request an extension from FEMA. It would be up to FEMA to grant the extension. The current timeline is not being driven by the grant's period of performance, but by the ability of the microgrid developer to get private financing to support the project. Specifically, a 30% federal tax credit is available to projects like the St Es microgrid that begin construction by January 1, 2025. If the design is not completed by the end of FY24, the District would lose out on this financial incentive. This could make the project financially infeasible.

To date, HSEMA has received roughly \$150,000 of grant funds to support the development of RFP materials.

- d. What is the anticipated timeline for the Power Purchase Agreement to be sent to the Council for approval?

Project team anticipates the Power Purchase Agreement to be sent to the Council for approval in March once the project is approved by DGS and OAG for legal sufficiency.

38. Please describe HSEMA's work on flood risk mitigation in FY23 and FY24, to date, including through the agency's role as a member of the DC Silver Jackets.
 - a. What work did the agency do to mitigate flood risks in the District?
 - b. What efforts are underway to expand flood preparedness?
 - i. More specifically, what is the status of the flood resiliency strategy for Southwest/Buzzard Point?
 - ii. What is the status of the Concept Design Plan for the Watts Branch Flood Risk Management Study?

HSEMA actively participates in DC Silver Jackets Team sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). These quarterly meetings are an opportunity to coordinate and collaborate on priority projects to enhance flood mitigation and resilience in the District. Details on projects below:

- Flood Signs and Sensor project: This project is led by HSEMA. The goal is to design and install a network of rain gauges, warning signs, and real-time monitoring sensors in flood prone areas identified through DOEE's Integrated Flood Modeling and other local datasets produced by HSEMA.
- Co-Hosting Flood Awareness Week: HSEMA hosted a series of emergency preparedness events for Flood Awareness Week, which occurs in the third week of June every year.
- ReadyDC Refresh: HSEMA contracted a design team to collect in-depth community feedback on the ReadyDC campaign and associated website. The team conducted interviews and held focus groups with community residents to better understand how Washingtonians interact with alerts and preparedness messages. This feedback is currently informing a full update set for launch this Summer.
- DC Public High School Flood Education: HSEMA in partnership with DOEE and a community-based organization actively developed two six-weeks flood education seminars where we worked with students at Phelps Brown and Friendship High School on flood risk management techniques.
- Southwest/Buzzard Point: HSEMA is working closely with DPR to transfer the first tranche of grant funds for design. The goal is to procure a design and engineering team to oversee the design-build contract set to be released in the upcoming year.
- Watts Branch: HSEMA is working closely with DOEE to identify and procure contract support for the plan set to be released this February.

39. What resources are available and targeted to areas of the District without sufficient tree canopies to reduce the urban heat island effect and keep neighborhoods cool?
 - a. Is HSEMA monitoring trends in this area and seeking any interventions?
 - b. How has the Keep Cool DC plan been implemented to date?

- c. Has HSEMA had more success in getting funding for heat mitigation projects?

In 2022, the District released the Keep Cool DC Plan which outlines strategies for reducing the urban heat island and keeping residents safe during an extreme heat event. That plan included maps that identified which neighborhoods are most exposed and sensitive to extreme heat. HSEMA has integrated that data into our heat response plan to better understand if cooling centers and resources exist in the neighborhoods that need them most. Of note, HSEMA recognizes that cooling centers are only one part of the solution. While it has been our primary tool to date, we are exploring other options including interventions for people experiencing homelessness, misting tents, and handing out cool kits.

Additionally, the Resilience Bureau is supporting efforts to increase tree canopy as a component of our hazard mitigation funded work. For example, the blue green infrastructure project in SW will include shade trees. Likewise, we are supporting a small area parks assessment tool in partnership with DPR and OP, which will evaluate the opportunities to use these spaces to reduce urban heat. Finally, we are supporting a study in Ivy City (a well-known heat island) to provide neighborhood level solutions for flooding and extreme heat. Outside of this, DDOT's Urban Forestry Division plants thousands of trees each year throughout the District, and residents can request a street tree through the RiverSmart Homes Program run by DOEE.

HSEMA continues to work with partners at FEMA to find opportunities to fund heat mitigation projects. However, statutory requirements that require strict benefit-cost-analyses preclude most extreme heat implementation studies as a standalone project. To date, no jurisdiction nationwide has successfully garnered an award for these projects in the national competition. HSEMA is currently working with DPR to develop a competition grant application to FEMA to design and construct shaded bus stops and other interventions that will mitigate the risk of extreme heat for residents using the transit systems. This project will be a part of a larger effort to develop "Cool Corridors" – areas of the city with effective heat mitigation that connect residents to park spaces.

40. Please discuss the agency's other efforts to expand environmental disaster preparedness.

HSEMA partnered with DOEE to update the climate change chapter of Resilient DC concurrently with updates to the Climate Ready DC Plan. HSEMA leveraged mitigation funding to update the District's climate projections based on the best available science. We are also collaborating to host a series of interagency and community workshops to inform the updates.

Additionally, through the ReadyDC website, HSEMA helps educate the public on how to prepare for a wide range of disaster events. In FY23, HSEMA continued to update the website based on community feedback and are on track to release new content this year.

41. In 2023, HSEMA opened its new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). How has the new EOC facility been utilized? How has it enhanced the mission of HSEMA?

The new District Emergency Operations Center (EOC) officially opened on July 4, 2023, with the inaugural EOC activation supporting Independence Day celebrations across the District. The EOC has been active for a total of 10 EOC operations since opening in July. The expanded space – almost double in size – has allowed us to bring in additional partners to report in-person to the EOC for even more enhanced coordination and situational awareness. HSEMA has also used the new facility to strengthen preparedness and training for District agencies, regional partners, and others. This has included over two dozen trainings, in addition to workshops and other events led by HSEMA as well as other local and Federal partners. Many of those trainings and workshops were multi-day events. Thanks to our new expanded EOC facility, these important events did not conflict with our emergency activations. The agency’s improved in-person training opportunities have been an important augmentation to the robust online training academy, which has been used by over 300 organizations in addition to DC Government over the past year.

- a. What is the status and schedule for the renovations of the old HSEMA facility located at 2720 MLK Avenue SE?

HSEMA is working with DGS and the project architects to finalize permit drawings and prepare for construction contract solicitation. The renovated facility will provide essential office space for the administrative divisions of the agency, improved wellness areas, and flexible training rooms that can serve as a backup EOC and Fusion Center. All staff have vacated the MLK facility and we have been working with Federal and local agencies on relocating and removing and relocating communications equipment and other critical items to prepare for upcoming construction work.

42. Please describe HSEMA’s work in response to the recent threats towards synagogues and other religious institutions or places of worship.

Through the DC Fusion Center, HSEMA coordinates daily with Federal and local law enforcement to assess and respond to threats to religious institutions and places of worship. This includes providing regular and timely updates to institutions as appropriate. Our team receives many notifications through Suspicious Activity Reports via iWatchDC.org, including tips from community members, faith leaders, law enforcement partners, and other local and regional stakeholders. Alert DC is the District’s primary mechanism for issuing emergency alerts, and warnings, and for sharing other critical public information.

HSEMA facilitates ongoing preparedness activities through the Interfaith Preparedness Advisory Group (IPAG), which is a joint effort between the Mayor’s Office of Religious Affairs, MPD, and HSEMA. IPAG provides a direct connection to the District’s faith-based organizations through which HSEMA can efficiently assist with enhancing their readiness for all types of hazards. HSEMA develops content for regular meetings and disseminates relevant information to faith-based communities, especially when there are large-scale events or hazardous weather that may directly impact them.

In FY23 and FY24 to date, IPAG, in collaboration with the DC Fusion Center, hosted two convenings with religious institutions and places of worship – the first event in March

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focused on the overall threat environment, and included a training on behavioral threat assessment and management, and technical assistance on applying for the Non-Profit Security Grant Program. In the second event, which was held in the context of the ongoing Israel-HAMAS conflict, HSEMA provided a situational overview and shared best practices for information sharing.

HSEMA looks forward to assisting the faith-based community with the application process for FEMA's FY24 Non-profit Security Grant program, upon successful Congressional passage of a full year budget. Although HSEMA cannot accept FY24 applications until Congress acts, we continue to provide information on the FY23 program to help organizations prepare for the next grant cycle.