

TurboGrants: New Options for Learning About Hazard Mitigation Grants on Wednesday, July 12 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. MDT

Curtis Brown (Moderator)

SPECIAL ADVISOR, RESILIENCE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES



Brown is a nationally recognized leader in implementing inclusive and equitable emergency management policies. In 2019, he co-founded the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting diversity within the field of emergency management and promoting the application of equitable practices to improve disaster outcomes and build community resilience for the most vulnerable communities. He has thoroughly researched equity issues in emergency management, developed a curriculum, and conducted numerous trainings. He has provided expert testimony on emergency management and disaster equity before the United States Congress on four occasions: U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee (2017), U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (2020), Committee on Homeland Security (2021), and House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee (2021).

Bryan Koon (Panel Member)

VICE PRESIDENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, IEM



Bryan Koon is the former Director at the Florida Division of Emergency Management and serves as IEM's Vice President of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Koon is the former Chair of the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council (MMC), an independent, non-governmental entity of leading experts in mitigation that helps inform policy and advocates for smart mitigation practices nationwide and current Chair of the MMC TurboGrants™ Advisory Board. Koon has spent his career focused on improving emergency response operations and engaging communities in becoming better prepared for emergencies and disasters. Koon joins IEM with a well-rounded background of military, consultant, corporate business, and public sector experience. Koon was appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott in 2011 to be the state's Director of Emergency Management. In this position, Koon managed the division's responsibilities in planning for, responding to, and recovering from natural and human-caused disasters. This included preparing and implementing the statewide Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, conducting state and local exercises and training to improve preparedness capabilities, and acting as liaison between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and federal and state agencies. Koon's priorities included relationship-building and better communications between the private and public sectors as well as improved cross-over between state preparedness and recovery efforts. In his role, Koon was also the Chair of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and Vice Chair of the Domestic Security Oversight Council (DSOC).

Russ Strickland (Panel Member)

SECRETARY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Russell J. Strickland has been leading the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (formerly Maryland Emergency Management Agency, MEMA) since July 2015 and was reappointed Secretary of Emergency Management by Governor Wes Moore in January 2023. In this role, Mr. Strickland directs a department that has the primary responsibility and authority for emergency preparedness policy, and for coordinating hazard mitigation, incident response, disaster recovery, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, and the Office of Resilience for the State of Maryland. This includes serving as a direct advisor to the Governor during disasters and coordinating support for local governments as requested.

Mr. Strickland is an experienced emergency management professional who has more than 40 years of experience in the field of emergency services and first responder activities at the state and local levels of government, academia, and the private sector. This includes expertise in fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, fire inspection and investigation, communications, and emergency management leadership.

Directly prior to his appointment, Mr. Strickland worked as a Senior Law & Policy Analyst at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS), where he led CHHS' work with the United States Department of State Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program and developed strategy for the Montgomery County (MD.) Fire Department to meet compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Mr. Strickland also has experience leading a cabinet-level emergency services department at the local level as the Director of Emergency Services in Harford County, Md. This position oversees emergency operations and communications, public safety answering points (the 9-1-1 center), training, and special operations among other responsibilities.

His executive responsibilities have also included previously serving the State of Maryland as Deputy Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Assistant Director of the Field Programs Division at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, University of Maryland College Park.

Mr. Strickland has a Master of Science degree in Management from Frostburg State College. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Pamela Williams (Panel Member)

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Pamela Williams was appointed by President Biden in 2022 to serve as the Assistant Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD). GPD’s mission is to deliver and support grant programs that help the Nation before, during, and after disasters in order to make the country more resilient. In this role she is responsible for agency-wide grants management policy and the \$500 million Grants Management Modernization initiative to modernize grants-related business processes to improve the administration and oversight of the billions of grant dollars awarded annually by the Department. Ms. Williams brings to this position more than 20 years of federal agency, congressional and legislative, and stakeholder engagement experience focusing on emergency management, disaster mitigation, and resilience law and policy.

Jiqiu (JQ) Yuan (Panel Member)

VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES



Dr. Jiqiu (JQ) Yuan, P.E., PMP, is a professional engineer with more than 15 years of research and development experience. He specializes in making infrastructure and communities resilient against natural disasters. Dr. Yuan is actively involved in the development of guidelines, codes, standards, polices, and applied research programs in a variety of building science fields. As a senior executive with NIBS, he leads organization-wide initiatives that support interdisciplinary and inter-organizational collaboration, providing strategic leadership in developing new initiatives in emerging areas and promoting innovative solutions in the built environment. Formerly, Dr. Yuan was a researcher with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. He also served as an adjunct professor with George Mason University and George Washington University