

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. Michael Miron  
Committee Management Officer  
Office of Partnership and Engagement  
Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE.  
Washington, DC 20032

Re: FEMA Review Council Final Report, Department of Homeland Security, DHS-2026-0067

Dear Mr. Miron,

The Council on Foundations (the Council) appreciates the opportunity to provide input and comments to the Department of Homeland Security (the Department) on the final report released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council (FEMA Review Council).

The Council is a nonprofit membership association that serves as a guide for philanthropies as they advance the greater good. Building on our 77-year history, the Council supports around [1,000 member organizations](#) in the United States and around the world to build trust in philanthropy, expand pathways to giving, engage broader perspectives, and co-create solutions that will lead to a better future for all.

The philanthropic and nonprofit sectors continue to be a key source of support for everyday Americans. In the past several years alone, charitable nonprofits have provided [critical disaster relief in response to flooding in Texas](#), [stepped up to strengthen the capacity of foodbanks to feed Americans who are experiencing food insecurity](#), and [built homes for post-9/11 veterans injured in combat](#). Foundations and their nonprofit partners advance a wide range of missions, including education, health, human services, economic development, emergency preparedness, emergency response, and emergency recovery.

Given the philanthropic sector's history of supplementing government-funded programs and its presence in nearly every community across the nation, we support the integration of volunteer, faith-based, and nonprofit organizations into national preparedness, response, and recovery frameworks, as noted under recommendation one, problem two, on page 28 of the final report. We also recommend

that the FEMA Review Council consider engaging community foundations as key partners in the reimagined National Business Emergency Operations Center to create a strong, unified national network for partnership that puts communities first. The U.S. is home to an extensive network of community foundations that could be mobilized to provide local knowledge and, in some cases, volunteers to assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government partners in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters in communities across the nation, employing many of the guidelines outlined in the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#).

In addition, community foundations have developed recommendations to help move resources more quickly to their respective communities during disasters. Specifically, one recommendation called for streamlining application and reporting processes. Community foundations are ready to assist in the FEMA Review Council's effort to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic requirements in hopes of creating simpler applications and standardized documentation that could decrease the need for consultants, especially in smaller and underserved communities.

Thank you for considering our recommendations on the FEMA Review Council's final report. To discuss the Council's recommendations in further detail or to explore options for collaborating with the philanthropic sector more broadly, do not hesitate to contact our team at [govt@cof.org](mailto:govt@cof.org).

Sincerely,

Jenn Holcomb  
Vice President, Public Policy and Legal Resources