



OEM: Weekly SITREP

January 18, 2021

USA & WORLD

- Federal testing [website](#) launches next week.
- The [puzzle](#) of America's record Covid hospital rate.
- Russia threatens [military deployment](#) to Cuba and Venezuela.
- Marines grant military's first [religious exemptions](#) to vaccine mandate.
- Biden sending [military medics](#) to U.S. hospitals in COVID-19 hot spots.
- Supreme Court blocks COVID-19 [vaccine-or-testing mandate](#).
- Europe at greatest risk of [war](#) in 30 years, Poland warns.
- [Debunking](#) the idea viruses always evolve to become less virulent.
- WHO expert [warns](#) half of Europe could catch Covid-19 in two months.
- The biggest [danger](#) this year will stem from inflation.
- [Violent crime](#) in the U.S. is surging. But we know what to do about it.
- Multiple black colleges face [violent threats](#) ahead of MLK Day.
- University of Utah: [bomb threat](#) against Black Cultural Center.
- Novartis reports good news from COVID-19 [antiviral trial](#).
- Nonprofit college spends more on [marketing](#) than financial aid.
- University of Pittsburgh ['disenrolls'](#) unvaccinated students.
- Commercial surveillance [poses](#) a serious security risk to US.
- How COVID broke supply chains & how AI could [fix](#) them.
- Cannabis compounds [prevented](#) Covid infection in laboratory study.
- Russian state-sponsored cyber [threats](#) to U.S. critical infrastructure.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. DHS-2022-0004]

Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council

AGENCY: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE).

ACTION: Notice of reestablished Federal advisory committee.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is reestablishing the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC), a discretionary federal advisory committee. The primary purpose of the HSAAC will be to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and DHS senior leadership on matters related to homeland security and the academic community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Acting Executive Director Traci Silas via email at DHSAcademic@hq.dhs.gov or via phone at 202-603-1142.

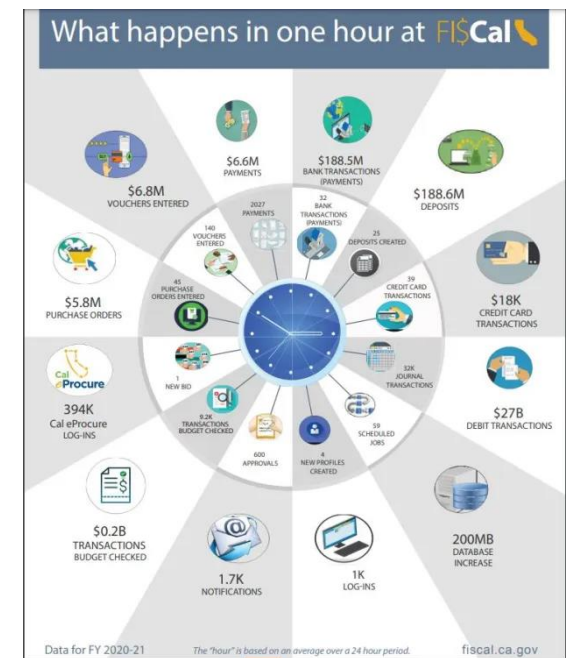
DHS Security Academic Advisory Council will provide [advice and recommendations](#) to the academic community.

CALIFORNIA

- Why Covid disruptions at California universities [differ](#) from March 2020.
- New COVID [workplace rules](#) go into effect in California.
- How California plans to spend [\\$37 billion](#) fighting climate change.
- NorCal winter storms [ease](#) drought conditions.
- California hospitals [predict](#) COVID crisis will last 4-6 weeks.
- [CA Notify App](#): Ignores at-home tests, [missing](#) exposures.
- UC ANR scientists receive [\\$1.5M NIFA grant](#) for climate-smart agriculture.
- UC [DMPHub](#): tool that advances [data management](#).
- California assault weapon owners face [registration](#) deadline.
- Should state [negotiate](#) wages, hours, for fast food workers?
- Health workers [sound alarm](#) over ‘ridiculous’ new COVID guidance.
- A simple [guide](#) to California's new push for universal health care.
- San Francisco hospitals in [dire straits](#) because of staffing shortages.
- Newsom proposes [5-year funding compact](#) with the UC.
- Virtual UC [celebrations](#) of Black history, culture and social justice.
- [Bomb threat](#) shuts down Charles R. Drew medical school in Willowbrook.
- The [California Blueprint](#): Newsom’s 2022-23 state budget proposal.
- [AB-245](#): Public colleges must update diplomas and transcripts.
- Register: UC panel discussion on [Breaking down barriers to privacy careers](#).
- Register: UC panel discussion on [The Social Dilemma](#).

FISCal emerged in 2012. This super system was to be complete in just four years at a cost of \$617 million. A decade later, the project’s price tag has ballooned to \$1 billion.

As State Agencies Have Transitioned to FISCal, the State’s Annual Financial Statements Have Been Issued Increasingly Late



REGION

- [Santa Ana winds](#) to gust across Southern California.
- KB Home announces [3 new communities](#) in Riverside.
- USC's presidential finalist lays out his [plans](#) for the university.
- [Study](#): Americans spend around 23 hours per week on the internet.
- SoCal students hold [walkout](#) to advocate for virtual learning.
- UCR [research](#) shows how liberal & conservative demographics are shifting.
- Southern California's 6.6% inflation rate [highest](#) in 31 years.
- [Super Bowl](#) organizers say game is staying in SoCal.
- San Bernardino Fire knocks down massive commercial fire in [Adelanto](#).
- UCR astronomer & a group of citizen scientists [discover](#) hidden gas planet.
- U.S. Geological Survey reports [earthquake](#) in Riverside County.
- Los Angeles paid out [\\$300,000](#) last year for information on hit and runs.
- SoCal gang [arrests and gun seizures](#) announced by FBI.
- Demand for [assistance programs](#) surges, points to a bigger problem ahead.
- 20 LAUSD law enforcement employees [sue](#) over vaccine mandate.
- More RivCo COVID-19 [outbreaks](#) seen in 10 days than in all December.
- UCSD Health Pays [\\$2.98 million](#) over unnecessary genetic testing.

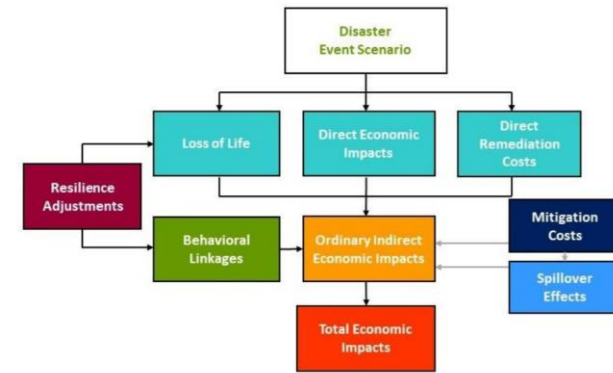


Figure 2-1. Economic Consequence Analysis Framework Overview

Research on the Macroeconomic Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Research on the impacts of disasters has led to the development of a comprehensive economic consequence analysis (ECA) framework that has applicability to COVID-19. This framework extends ordinary impact analysis covering standard direct and indirect effects to include resilience and behavioral responses that play an especially prominent role during the pandemic and its recovery.

The County of Riverside Emergency Operations Center is currently activated to [Management Watch](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

- **17 January:**
 - **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)**
- **14 January:**
 - **Winter Quarter Campus Update from Provost Watkins**
 - **The Office of Risk Services and UC Legal – Office of the General Counsel will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 from 3:00PM-4:00PM to discuss the Cal/OSHA Standards Board’s latest revisions to the COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS), which go into effect, January 14, 2022.**
- **13 January:**
 - **Feedback Requested on the AVC-CIO Candidates**
- **12 January:**
 - **Where to get N95 masks on campus**
- **11 January:**
 - **Fourth AVC-CIO Candidate Vision Seminar – Thursday, January 13th**
 - **Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services (AVC-ES) Search Announcement**
- **10 January:**
 - **Notice of CAPTCHA Feature in Response to Brute-Force Attack**

Please Reference Notes Section For More Information

NOTABLE

- ['Major Win': Judge Says Suit to Break Up Facebook Empire Can Proceed](#)
- [5 reasons you should not deliberately catch Omicron to 'get it over with'](#)
- [The COVID generation: how is the pandemic affecting kids' brains?](#)
- [Predictions for Cybersecurity in 2022](#)
- [Understanding the Power of Social Media as a Communications Tool in the Aftermath of Disasters](#)
- [It Is Time to Counter China's Data Strategy](#)
- [When will the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered reach 10 billion worldwide?](#)
- [CISA's Office for Bombing Prevention videos illustrate how to prevent attacks](#)
- [2021: The year in images](#)
- [University Finances Face a Long Road to Recovery](#)
- [As Russia Takes On 'Terrorists' in Kazakhstan, China Offers Security Assistance](#)
- [An Essential Detour to Wounded Knee, South Dakota](#)
- [Universities Partner With Cybint for Cyber Impact Bootcamps](#)
- [Security shortfalls ranked top roadblock to IT modernization](#)
- [The Metaverse Needs a Constitution](#)
- [How A.I. is set to evolve in 2022](#)
- [Protect Yourself: Commercial Surveillance Tools](#)
- [New podcast series examines supply chain threats](#)
- [Mild-to-moderate Covid associated with worsening mobility in middle-aged & older adults](#)
- [Resources related to biological hazards that may impact schools and postsecondary campuses](#)

2022–2026 FEMA Strategic Plan

- **The 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan postures the agency to meet the immediate and future needs of the nation.**
- **It is critical to understand the challenges and opportunities the emergency management community may face over the next decade.**
- **October 2022 will mark a decade since Hurricane Sandy, which resulted in legislative reforms that spurred FEMA to drastically improve the efficiency and quality of disaster assistance.**
- **As COVID-19 and climate change continue to reshape society, FEMA must look beyond disasters for lessons learned to assess future risks as catalysts for change.**
- **To inform the Strategic Plan, the agency conducted an environmental scan of internal and external evidence to assess its operating environment, identify key issues, and determine capability gaps that could impact the future of both FEMA and the nation.**

"The field of emergency management is at a pivotal moment. We are seeing tremendous change in the landscape of risk and in our professional roles. While our mission of helping people before, during, and after disasters has not changed, our operating environment has."

2022–2026 FEMA Strategic Plan

- **Creating a comprehensive strategic plan required input from a diverse range of stakeholders.**
- **These viewpoints helped to articulate the most critical challenges facing the agency and the broader emergency management community, and inform the goals and objectives they will pursue together over the next five years.**
- **Input was collected from the public through a Climate and Equity Request for Information as well as at various FEMA events designed to discuss FEMA’s efforts and elicit feedback.**
- **Through a series of conversations and workshops, FEMA connected with over 1,000 members of the agency’s workforce and senior leadership, and more than 400 external partners spanning all sectors, levels of government, and a wide range of disciplines — including federal and territorial partners, state and local governments, over 50 tribal nations, private and nonprofit partners, and the academic community.**

Goal 1: Instill equity as a foundation of emergency management

Goal 2: Lead whole of community in climate resilience

Goal 3: Promote and sustain a ready FEMA and prepared nation

Goal #1: Equity

Equity in Action

Objective 1.1 builds off FEMA's current diversity and inclusion initiatives, including:

- Partnering with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium of Tribal Colleges and Universities to create hiring pipelines into the field of emergency management.
- Supporting staff-led FEMA Employee Resource Groups.
- Implementing a workplace cultural improvement action plan.

Equity in Action

Following [Executive Order 13985](#) FEMA evaluated the equity of its programs and implemented changes to ensure assistance is accessible to people and communities served, including:

- Accepting more forms of documentation to prove ownership and occupancy for homeowners and renters, reducing the administrative burden on low-income and rural applicants.
- Prioritizing efforts for FEMA caseworkers to contact applicants deemed ineligible due to occupancy or ownership verification, so they can help them navigate the application process.
- Changing how we calculate the threshold for property losses to qualify for Direct Housing assistance.

[Executive Order 13985](#) (Jan. 20, 2021) defines **equity** as “the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.”

Additionally, “**underserved communities** refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.”

“The role and responsibility of emergency managers requires sensitivity to the needs of all disaster survivors and equitable and fair distribution of assistance to all those affected – especially those disproportionately impacted.”

Goal #2: Climate Resilience

Climate Adaptation in Action

In 2021, FEMA helped communities increase resilience to climate change by:

- Providing an additional \$3.46 billion in Hazard Mitigation grant funding to the 59 major disaster declarations issued due to COVID-19.
- Providing \$1 billion in Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding for hazard mitigation projects — twice what was available in the first year of the BRIC program.

Climate Adaptation in Action

Fire departments across the country are increasingly being called upon to respond to wildland urban interface fires (WUI). More than 46 million residences in 70,000 communities in the U.S. are at risk for these fires.

[FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Academy](#) provides training and its National Fire Programs has data, prevention, and research initiatives to create, sustain, and support a fire-adapted community, land-use planning, code adoption, and evacuation planning.



Climate Adaptation in Action

FEMA already works to provide many state, local, tribal, and territorial partners with tools to assist with building resilience, such as the [Risk Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#), [Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment \(THIRA\)](#), and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) processes.

FEMA also provides public tools such as the FEMA [Vulnerability Index](#) and the [Open FEMA](#) platform, which allow stakeholders to access and utilize information specific to their community.



“Response lead-timelines are being tested year over year, making it increasingly important to facilitate an increased understanding of the intersection of climate science, the impacts of climate change, and effective adaptation strategies to empower risk-informed decision-making and build national resilience to the impacts.”

Goal #3: Promote and Sustain

Readiness and Preparedness in Action

Through the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Anywhere initiative and the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) Virtual Instructor Lead Training (VILT), FEMA is working to make training available to emergency managers anywhere they are, any time in their careers. EMI and CDP are modernizing their operational design to become the nation's emergency management college. This initiative will ensure the nation's federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, NGO, and private sector emergency managers can meet the risks posed by the increasing hazard, and obtain the training required to become certified within the National Qualification System (NQS).

Readiness and Preparedness in Action

In 2020 FEMA began a multi-year initiative to develop an agency Readiness Framework to unify the way the agency defines and evaluates readiness across all mission areas. This Framework will standardize how we define readiness, align FEMA doctrine and policy with readiness concepts, and link readiness measures to solutions that drive decision making and resource allocation.

Readiness and Preparedness in Action

In coordination with the interagency partners, FEMA developed [COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps](#) to help communities navigate COVID-19 pandemic recovery. Each Roadmap identifies potential solutions and describes how federal funding and technical assistance can help communities with pandemic recovery.

“The emergency management workforce is evolving as rapidly as the environment they are asked to prepare for and respond to. As threats, and opportunities, present themselves in an accelerating environment, we have to increase our ability to define and solve novel problem sets.”

Questions (1)



Goal 1: Instill Equity as a Foundation of Emergency Management

1. How do we measure the culture of FEMA's workforce (i.e., presence of FEMA's core values of compassion, fairness, integrity, and respect)? Is the measurement of FEMA's core values related to the diversity of the workforce?
2. Is there a relationship between the amount of investment and assistance a community receives from FEMA prior to a disaster and the likelihood that the community will access FEMA programs post-disaster?
3. Is there a relationship between the number of challenges faced by individuals eligible for FEMA assistance and race, ethnicity, sex, or disability status of those applicants?
4. Are there disparities in outcomes for communities across FEMA programs, and what is the best way to measure this?
5. Is FEMA's Individual Assistance for Housing Assistance funding distributed differentially by race, ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, and disability status for major disaster declarations? Are there differences in who is deemed eligible? Are there differences in the amount received? Are there differences in who applies for assistance? Are some groups not applying for assistance even when they are eligible? Are there differences for renters versus owners? Are there differences in results for Tribes?

Questions (2)

Goal 2: Lead Whole of Community in Climate Resilience



1. To what extent is the newly developed Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant achieving its desired outcomes?
2. Has Public Assistance achieved its intended outcome of increasing mitigation funding (is there a difference in the percentage of projects with mitigation dollars awarded)? If so, did it increase community resilience to future disasters?
3. Beyond financial costs, what is the best way to measure loss avoidance and the efficacy of risk reductions? What indicator(s) would best quantify the reduction of risk and lives and resources saved?
4. Is there a relationship between communities' use of future conditions data and loss avoidance?

Data Projects:

1. Index or indicators identifying climate-vulnerable populations
2. Future conditions data (climate change projections)

Questions (3)

Goal 3: Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and Prepared Nation



1. What is the best method (or set of methods) to index or normalize major disaster declarations to be able to compare FEMA's disaster response and recovery programs across disasters?

Data Projects:

1. Administrative data set of the nation's emergency managers

Billions for Community Mitigation Investments

- The [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) legislation allows \$1.2 trillion to tackle the climate crisis and strengthen the nation's resilience, including underserved communities that are most vulnerable.
 - \$6.8 billion investment in communitywide mitigation to reduce disaster suffering and avoid future disaster costs in the face of more frequent and severe events arising from:
 - Wildfires
 - Droughts
 - Hurricanes
 - Tornados
 - Floods
- FEMA committed \$3.46 billion through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program across the 59 major disaster declarations issued due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- FEMA also committed \$1.16 billion earlier this year for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs in the Fiscal Year 2021 application cycle.