

**Anchorage Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

Care of the Anchorage Office of Emergency Management  
1305 E Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

September 19, 2025

**To:** Alaska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

---

**Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Sustain Local Emergency Planning Committees and Protect Alaska's Disaster Preparedness**

Dear Esteemed Commissioners and Members of the Board,

The Anchorage Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) writes to you at a critical moment for Alaska's preparedness and resilience. LEPCs have been an essential part of emergency readiness for decades, helping to protect citizens, property, and the environment. Yet, since 2019, the State of Alaska has discontinued funding to LEPCs, leaving local jurisdictions without the resources to engage in the activities required by both federal law (42 U.S.C. § 11003) and Alaska Statute 26.23.071.

The challenge has now grown more urgent. At our **August 11, 2025, special meeting**, the Anchorage LEPC discussed the possibility of reduced or eliminated federal support through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs. While some funding streams have been released, others, such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure Community (BRIC) program, have been canceled. Proposals to further reduce FEMA support for local communities remain under consideration. This uncertainty makes local and state-level leadership more critical than ever.

**Anchorage is the state's critical infrastructure center and medical hub.** Instability in federal funding threatens not only emergency planning and preparedness, but also the city's ability to serve as a lifeline for surrounding communities during crises. Our partners in public health, emergency response, and critical infrastructure emphasized the cascading risks of inadequate planning support. Without reliable funding and resources, the burden on Anchorage will overwhelm our already limited capacity and expose all Alaskans to heightened risk.

The Anchorage LEPC urges you to act decisively to ensure Alaska does not fall behind in emergency preparedness.

We recommend:

1. **Champion LEPC Support in State and Federal Legislative Priorities.**  
Anchorage's legislative priority calendar should explicitly include funding for LEPCs here and throughout Alaska. We ask you to champion this priority in both Juneau and Washington, D.C.
2. **Establish Reliable and Formulaic Funding for LEPCs.**  
As outlined in our previous recommendations made to the State in 2023, states such as Ohio and Maine have developed fee structures and hazardous materials revenue mechanisms that sustainably support local emergency planning. Alaska must adopt best practice through similar statewide models to ensure that LEPCs are resourced consistently.
3. **Safeguard Anchorage's Role as a Statewide Medical and Emergency Hub.**  
Federal and state leaders must recognize Anchorage's unique responsibility in serving rural and remote

Alaskan communities. Stable and flexible funding will help ensure medical surge capacity, public health protection, and critical infrastructure resilience.

4. **Amplify the leadership role of the SERC and engage with Alaska DHS&EM and community partners.** Utilize the SERC statutory role to address all hazards and threats to the State of Alaska in order to update commodity flow studies, identify capability gaps, and develop a multi-year preparedness roadmap. Ensure this process includes robust input from local governments, Tribal entities, and emergency management professionals from all sectors. Advocate for reforms to allow longer performance periods, broader reimbursable costs, and third-party in-kind match contributions.
5. **Encourage Leverage of Shared Resources.** Promote state sharing of access to statewide alert systems, incident management platforms, geographic data tools, and the development of an online grants management system to streamline grant management and reporting.
6. **Strengthen Partnerships with Private Sector and Professional Organizations.** We ask legislators to support outreach efforts to Alaska's business community, medical institutions, and professional associations so they can be engaged in preparedness and funding advocacy.

These are actionable steps that you can take now. Without them, Alaska risks falling into a reactive posture, responding to disasters without the preparation that saves lives, reduces costs, and build resilience.

We call on you to engage with our state and federal legislative leaders to prioritize LEPC funding and support. Your leadership will make the difference in protecting Alaska's people, environment, and economy.

The Anchorage LEPC will continue to collaborate with the Alaska LEPC Association, the SERC, and local partners to build a stronger, safer Alaska. We stand ready to provide further detail or testimony to support your efforts.

Respectfully,



Amanda K. Loach  
Chair, Anchorage Local Emergency Planning Committee



Brian G. Dean  
Co-chair, Anchorage Local Emergency Planning Committee

**Cc:** Members of the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission, Municipality of Anchorage Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage Assembly, Alaska LEPC Association (LEPCA), Members of the Alaska State Legislature representing the Municipality of Anchorage, Members of the Alaska Federal Delegation