

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 9, 2011

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed budget request for disaster response needs through fiscal year (FY) 2012. It includes a supplemental appropriations request for FY 2011 of \$500 million and a budget amendment for FY 2012 of \$4.6 billion for the Department of Homeland Security.

The proposed totals for FY 2011 and FY 2012 would increase by \$5.1 billion as a result of this request. The additional funding would fund disaster response needs in the Disaster Relief Fund, including approximately \$1.5 billion for the Federal share of costs to respond to Hurricane Irene.

This request responds to urgent and essential needs. The supplemental appropriations request would be designated as an emergency requirement. The request for FY 2012 in the budget amendment would constitute disaster relief within the meaning of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, and would therefore adjust the discretionary spending levels for FY 2012 pursuant to section 251. The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the signature of Barack Obama, written over a light gray rectangular background.

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

September 9, 2011

The President  
The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a supplemental appropriations request for FY 2011 of \$500 million and a budget amendment of \$4.6 billion to your FY 2012 Budget for the Department of Homeland Security.

The proposed totals for FY 2011 and FY 2012 would increase by \$5.1 billion as a result of this request. The additional funding would fund disaster response needs in the Disaster Relief Fund, including approximately \$1.5 billion for the Federal share of costs to respond to Hurricane Irene.

Department of Homeland Security

Through the Disaster Relief Fund, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a significant portion of the total Federal response to Presidentially-declared major disasters and emergencies. Primary assistance programs include Federal assistance to individuals and households, public assistance, which includes the repair and reconstruction of State, local, and nonprofit infrastructure, and hazard mitigation assistance.

This proposal requests an additional \$5.1 billion of which \$3.6 billion is for the continued response and recovery efforts associated with prior large events and \$1.5 billion for the estimated costs associated with the response to and recovery from Hurricane Irene that will impact the Disaster Relief Fund through FY 2012.

The \$5.1 billion includes \$500 million in supplemental appropriations for FY 2011 and \$4.6 billion for increased costs in FY 2012. This is in addition to the \$1.8 billion already included in the FY 2012 Budget. The supplemental appropriations, which would be designated as an emergency requirement, are needed to ensure that the Disaster Relief Fund has adequate resources to meet needs in the remaining weeks of the fiscal year. The budget amendment request for FY 2012 constitutes disaster relief within the meaning of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, and would trigger an adjustment in the ceiling for discretionary spending pursuant to section 251. As such, the \$4.6 billion budget amendment would be included in an adjustment to the discretionary cap in FY 2012.

This proposal includes funds only for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. The potential need for additional funding for disaster relief in other agencies is currently under review. If additional funding is warranted, an additional budget amendment may be required.

Recommendation

This request fulfills known and urgent needs for the Disaster Relief Fund, and I recommend that you propose the budget amendment and supplemental request. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Homeland Security in recommending that you transmit this proposal to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob J. Lew', with a long, wavy tail extending to the right.

Jacob J. Lew  
Director

Enclosure

*FY 2011 Supplemental Proposal*

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Disaster Relief

For an additional amount for “Disaster Relief” for necessary expenses under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) for recent natural disasters, including Hurricane Irene, \$500,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Congress designates this amount as an emergency requirement for these specific purposes.

This request would provide an additional \$500 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster response associated with Hurricane Irene and other declared events. This funding would address a potential shortfall through the end of the fiscal year to ensure that Federal disaster response and relief efforts continue unimpeded.

*FY 2012 Budget Amendment*

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Bureau: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
Heading: Disaster Relief  
FY 2012 Budget Appendix Page: 543  
FY 2012 Pending Request: \$1,800,000,000  
Proposed Amendment: \$4,600,000,000  
FY 2012 Revised Request: \$6,400,000,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, insert before the first colon: ; and, in addition, \$4,600,000,000, to remain available until expended, which is designated by Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177), as amended.)

This amendment would provide an additional \$4.6 billion for the Disaster Relief account and would increase the pending \$1.8 billion in the FY 2012 Budget to \$6.4 billion.

Of the proposed \$4.6 billion, \$3.6 billion is needed in FY 2012 for the continued response and recovery efforts associated with prior large events, including Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, the 2008 Midwest floods, and the 2011 spring tornadoes. Also included in the \$4.6 billion are the costs associated with the response to and recovery from Hurricane Irene that are likely to impact the Disaster Relief Fund in FY 2012.

Through the Disaster Relief Fund, the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides a significant portion of the total Federal response to Presidentially-declared major disasters and emergencies. Primary assistance programs include Federal assistance to individuals and households, public assistance, and hazard mitigation assistance, which includes the repair and reconstruction of State, local, and nonprofit infrastructure.