

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Expert Panel on Cost Estimating for the Public Assistance Program

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Homeland Security

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Expert Panel on Cost Estimating for the
Public Assistance Program

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

10733

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

02/04/2005

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Yes

10b. Legislation Pending?

Pending

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Public Law 106-390,
Section 205e(3)

13. Effective Date

10/30/2000

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program

Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The objective of the Panel is to evaluate and report to Congress on the Public Assistance (PA) program's methodology for estimating the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a public facility or private nonprofit facility:a. on the basis of the design of the facility as the facility existed immediately before the disaster; andb. in

conformity with codes, specifications, and standards (including floodplain management and hazard mitigation criteria required by the President or under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3501 et. seq.)) applicable at the time at which the disaster occurred. The Panel shall make recommendations to the Director concerning:

- a. procedures for estimating the cost of repairing, restoring, reconstructing, or replacing a facility consistent with industry practices; and
- b. reasonable floor and ceiling percentages related to the estimated cost.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Panel shall:

- a. Review the Cost Estimating Format for Large Projects (CEF) materials and determine if the CEF methodology is appropriate for the PA program.
- b. Determine what level of technical expertise is required to uniformly apply the recommended estimating methodology and instrument to maximize their accuracy and national applicability.

Subsequent to completing the Evaluation Phase of the charter and taking into account the recommendations of the expert panel, FEMA shall promulgate regulations that establish the cost estimation procedures and the ceiling and floor percentages referred to above. Thereafter, the Panel will enter its Reporting Phase, and will meet not later than one year after the date of promulgation of regulations by FEMA, three years after that date and at the end of each two-year period. The purpose of these meetings is to conduct an examination of the appropriateness of the cost estimation procedures developed during the meetings conducted in fiscal year 2001, and to prepare and submit a report to Congress on the Panel's findings.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The membership of the panel includes organizational representatives from the construction industry, state and local government, academia, and the National Emergency Management Association, as required by the statute.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

This committee is currently administratively inactive.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The current process of reimbursing actual costs keeps the large projects open for many years, and makes it very difficult to project the amount of funding that will be required for any given project or disaster. The establishment of realistic triggers for large infrastructure projects involving permanent restorative work will result in more transparency when estimating discretionary costs and better reporting of fiscal exposures. We expect the Expert Panel process will result in more meaningful programmatic controls and economics (i.e., better allocation of otherwise scarce resources). This committee is essential as it provides experts in the architectural/engineering professions to advise on estimating costs for reimbursement to States for infrastructure related damages from Presidentially declared disasters. Advice of the committee is not available from other sources because Congress has stipulated which sources should be used for the establishment of the panel.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Committee meetings are not closed and

comments from members of the general public in attendance are welcome at the end of the meeting day.

21. Remarks

This committee has not met due to the statutory requirement to develop proposed estimating eligible costs regulations after completion of the Evaluation Phase of the FACA Charter, and is currently administratively inactive. The committee will resume meetings after regulations are published. The Panel shall function on a continuing basis in accordance with the authorizing statute unless terminated by appropriate legislative authority.

Designated Federal Officer

Currently no DFO none

Narrative Description

This committee did not meet in FY24 and continues to await a legislative change to terminate.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

20

Number of Recommendations Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

NA

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A

