

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 National Preparedness Report (2021 NPR) summarizes progress made, and challenges that remain, in building and sustaining the capabilities needed to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats, hazards, and incidents that pose the greatest risk to the Nation. For this report, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) used the events of 2020 to draw broader conclusions about national risk and capabilities and identified management opportunities to build those capabilities and reduce risk. This annual report offers all levels of government, Tribes, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public practical insights into preparedness that support decisions about program priorities, resource allocation, and actions that can create more resilient communities. The information in this report was gleaned from open-source research, data analysis of FEMA products such as the community<sup>i</sup> Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), and an interagency data call of more than 75 offices throughout the federal government.

The 2021 NPR follows the risk-based analysis approach of the 2020 NPR, with the following additional key features.

- **Risks:** This section includes an examination of how novel pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2 are approached as emerging risks at their onset (even though pandemics are an expected risk and are not inherently emerging) because the details of transmission, treatment, and impacts are initially unknown.
- **Capabilities:** This section was expanded to include a discussion of preliminary data from the first National SPR. The National SPR is an assessment of national capabilities to address national targets.

- **Management Opportunities:** This section is new to the NPR and includes factors that Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments and organizations could take advantage of when developing strategies to enhance their capabilities.

There are three opportunities in this report that are broken into specific areas for consideration:

- **Management Opportunity One** comprises a justification for a preparedness investment strategy to help close capability gaps and improve current capabilities, and an examination of strategic partnerships and diversified funding mechanisms that could help the Nation better reach its goals.
- **Management Opportunity Two** contains an explanation of what all levels of government are doing or can do to manage climate change, and how climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities.
- **Management Opportunity Three** includes a discussion of the National Preparedness System (NPS) and the importance of maintaining the connections between the components of this system, including the THIRA/SPR, threat and hazard modeling, and planning.

i “Community” THIRA and SPRs refer to those completed by states, urban areas, tribes, and territories.