



## **FFOCS Subcommittee Kick-off Meeting Minutes October 30, 2020**

Chair Brandon Presley and Vice-Chair Chuck Kosak convened the first meeting of the Federal Funding Opportunities & Construction Standards (FFOCS) Subcommittee, followed by introductions from the membership of the Subcommittee. The meeting agenda and presentation materials are attached for reference.

During the meeting, members responded to an introductory question about success factors for the FFOCS Subcommittee as it works to develop both an issue brief on the impact of construction standards on eligibility for federal funding and a broader federal funding reference manual describing available federal funding programs for pre- and post-disaster recovery efforts. Key themes arose:

- Develop a final product that clearly delineates available federal resources and explicitly details what entities are eligible for federal funding.
- Emphasize multiple levels of perspective in eligibility requirements – public sector, private businesses (large and small) and individuals.
- Detail a deeper understanding of the regulatory and legislative history of funding outlets.
- Highlight the importance of pre-disaster mitigation funding opportunities. Building more resilient infrastructure should be a foremost priority rather than building back to the same specifications.
- Ensure that lessons learned are practical for regulators, utilities, and consumers.
- Produce deliverables that are easily implemented, navigable, and practical for state commissions, their staff, and key stakeholders.

NARUC staff outlined Subcommittee member expectations for contributing to work products. FFOCS Subcommittee members will review and critique draft work products and support Subcommittee-sponsored events such as webinars and virtual learning engagements.

The group engaged in a discussion about scope of research into available federal funding. The group decided that the reference manual should consider a wide range of available federal funding opportunities rather than limit itself to just provisions of the Stafford Act. Additionally, the Subcommittee should endeavor to consider a variety of eligible funding recipients with which state public utility commissions may interact.

The group discussed what a useful end product would look like for state public utility commissions and their key stakeholders. The group noted the importance of a collaborative approach to the work of the subcommittee and ensuring that the final reference manual reflects a variety of



different perspectives. The group would like an easily navigable web portal that incorporates actionable (potentially step-by-step) style information as the reference manual deliverable on federal funding opportunities. Additionally, the group discussed the need to continually update any online portals to maintain accuracy of information.

Members also discussed expanding the Subcommittee roster to promote a holistic, collaborative approach. Members should submit additional suggestions to NARUC's Will McCurry ([wmccurry@naruc.org](mailto:wmccurry@naruc.org)) and specify whether they recommend those individuals for consultations or full subcommittee membership.

Finally, NARUC staff requested that members visit the Subcommittee's website (<https://www.naruc.org/emergency-preparedness-recovery-and-resiliency-task-force/>) Members should submit missing or updated biographies and/or photos to Will McCurry as soon as possible. Please review the website and share any missing information by **no later than December 4, 2020**.

The group was reminded that the full Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency Task Force (EPRR Task Force) will be meeting at the NARUC Annual meeting on **November 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET**.

NARUC staff will work to pick an appropriate date for future meetings of the FFOCS Subcommittee starting on a monthly basis as appropriate. NARUC staff will attempt to choose a date that does not conflict with any other standing NARUC Committee meetings or open meetings at the state commissions.