

Revised for the 2010 Report
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Management, Coordination, and Implementation of NEHRP

ACEHR provides one recommendation related to Management, Coordination, and Implementation:

- **Recommendation:** ICC take a leadership role in establishing proper funding levels to implement the Strategic Plan.
- **Recommendation :** Implement the re-authorized NEHRP quickly and without interruption to the current program.

After 25 years of good, individual progress by NEHRP agencies, the Program now also benefits from a strong, focused and collaborative NEHRP Office within NIST, an effective Program Coordination Working Group, an Interagency Coordinating Committee, and a high level Strategic Plan that defines interagency collaboration and a common focus. The NEHRP Office maintains a current and informative web site that serves, to facilitate management, coordination and implementation. The 2008–2012 NEHRP Strategic Plan is proving to be a significant and useful document that not only sets direction but also serves to foster collaboration, consistency, and common vision. ACEHR continues to believe that the effectiveness of NEHRP would be significantly enhanced if the other Federal Agencies doing earthquake engineering research and development were included in the program as we outlined in our 2009 report.

The 2004 reauthorization of NEHRP established an expanded ICC made up of the directors of NIST, FEMA, the NSF, the USGS, and the White House OMB and OSTP. The Congressional desire to encourage a higher level of coordination and collaboration between the agencies, their budgeting processes, and the President's science initiatives was initially well received and resulted in the higher level of coordination and positive changes to NEHRP that were instituted. The program benefitted from a highly effective and direct communication between the ACEHR, and the ICC, though that has not continued past the first two years. There remains, however, a steady stream of written reports and responses.

The progress over the past three years has been severely hampered by the persistent funding levels well below the Congressional Authorizations as shown in the table below. While some strides have been made to increase funding, ACEHR remains deeply concerned about the level of funds appropriated for NEHRP and the apparent lack of initiative to increase them in all agencies.. EERI's report *Securing Society Against Catastrophic Earthquake Losses: A Research and Outreach Plan in Earthquake Engineering* determined that \$330 million per year was needed, and there is no published evidence that refutes that amount. The lack of funding at authorized levels has impacted the activities of all the NEHRP agencies and seriously limited the development of information, tools, and grants need to arrest the growth of the potential for catastrophic earthquake losses, let alone begin the long process of reducing those losses to acceptable levels. There should be no doubt that the nation is facing multiple catastrophic

earthquakes on the order of those seen recently in China, Italy, Haiti, and Chile. It will take decades to secure this nation against that level of projected losses and it must begin with the work embodied in the Strategic plan for the NEHRP Program.

ACEHR recognizes that the NEHRP funding is included in the lead four agency budgets in different ways and is subject to Congressional review and adjustment. ACEHR also recognizes that the NEHRP funds are a small part of the related Departments budget, so small that it often does not have a line items in the President’s budget that is submitted to Congress. It is clear that funding decisions are made at the department and agency level with little if any Congressional oversight. ACEHR appreciates the need for balance in the budgets for each department and agency and their need to adhere to the President’s priorities. The Committee respectfully requests the ICC recognize the impact their individual departments budgeting is having on the advancement of the program, the consequential affects it is having on preparing the nation for an earthquake induced catastrophe, and work toward full funding at authorized levels as soon as possible.

NEHRP Program Funding Levels

Agency	\$M											
	FY 2005		FY 2006		FY 2007		FY 2008		FY 2009		FY 2010	
	Authorized ¹	Enacted ²	Authorized ¹	Requested/ Enacted ³								
FEMA ⁴	21.0	14.7	21.6	9.5	22.3	7.2	23.0	6.1	23.6	9.1	TBD	9.0
NIST ⁵	10.0	0.9	11.0	0.9	12.1	1.7	13.3	1.7	14.6	4.1	TBD	4.1
NSF ⁶	58.0	53.1	59.5	53.8	61.2	54.2	62.9	53.6	64.7	55.3	TBD	57.0
USGS ⁷	77.0	58.4	84.4	54.5	85.9	55.4	87.4	58.1	88.9	61.2	TBD	62.8
Totals	166.0	127.1	176.5	118.7	181.5	118.5	186.6	119.5	191.8	129.7	TBD	132.9

ACEHR has made a number of recommendations related to the reauthorization of the NEHRP program now moving through the Congress. ACEHR is generally pleased with the program adjustments included in HR3820 that was recently passed by the House and is now being considered by the Senate. However, we are deeply disturbed by the reduction in authorization levels for FEMA and NIST and recommend that the ICC encourage the Senate to make the needed adjustments to restore funding authorizations to the same increased levels included for USGS and NSF. Without such a restoration of funds, the NEHRP will not be able to accommodate the program changes, let alone accomplish much of the current strategic plan. The much needed activities related to expanding state preparedness grants, the development of performance based engineering standards for buildings and lifelines, the reinvigoration and expansion of focus for the ICSSC, and the sufficient deployment and funding of post earthquake investigations will remain stalled.

.ACEHR appreciates that the ICC has chosen to continue the program, as authorized in 2003, during this transition time. We expect that the Senate will soon complete reauthorization process and urge the ICC to continue all programs and efforts without interruption during the process of accommodating the new program elements.

