WILDER STRATEGIES / POLICY WRITING SAMPLE

FEMA Review Council: Implications for the VOAD Movement

Adapted from a June 2026 internal memo

Executive summary

The FEMA Review Council's recommendations raise a practical question for disaster nonprofits: if more responsibility shifts to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and their nonprofit partners, how will communities know what help is available and who can provide it? National VOAD can address that question by documenting current capabilities and tracking changes in the network's ability to respond.

Clarify roles and expectations

Explain what voluntary organizations can provide and where service depends on local capacity. Share the network's capabilities matrix with public-sector partners so they can see which capabilities exist, where they are available, and where gaps remain.

Improve reporting across the network

Strengthen reporting between National VOAD and State and Territory VOADs before, during, and after disasters. Include the location and activity of Long-Term Recovery Groups so partners have a clearer picture of local recovery capacity.

Track implementation

Document changes in what members are asked to do and where they can meet those requests. Use that evidence, along with examples of local preparedness and recovery, to explain how reforms affect disaster operations.