



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT





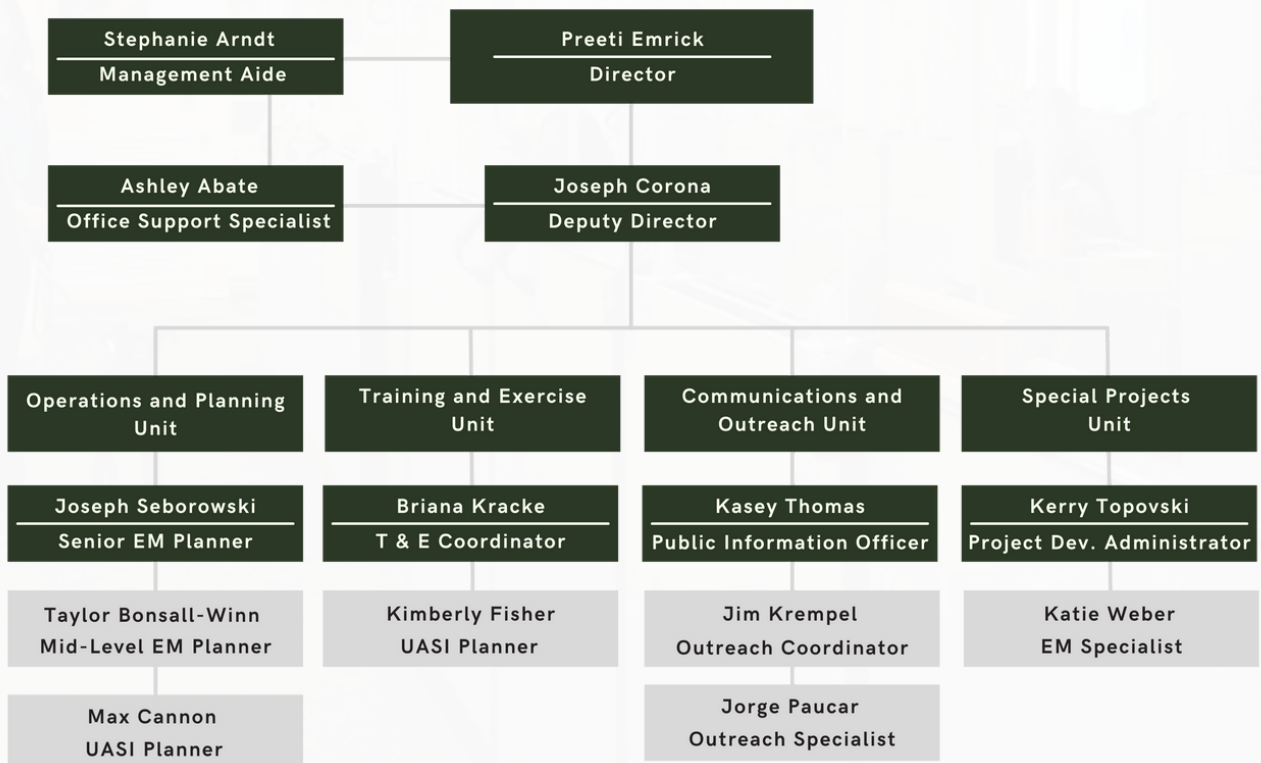
# ABOUT US

## MISSION

The Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management was established in 2006 to coordinate the County's response to major emergencies. Our mission is to help our County agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters.

## UNITS

The Office of Emergency Management is comprised of four units: Operations and Planning, Training and Exercise, Communications and Outreach, and Special Projects. The organizational chart below depicts the positions and names of staff members under each unit.



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is a critical part of our County's public safety system. As the lead agency for disaster response, our office works to ensure that individuals, communities, and County agencies are prepared for emergencies and disasters.



Since our office's founding in 2006, we have grown significantly to support mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts across the County. We now have an office of 14 staff members including a mix of both County and grant-funded positions. When I became the Director in 2020, I made it a priority to create more County positions in our office to increase stability and ensure our core operations continue as the emergency management field expands and we are facing more challenging events and incidents.

Over the next few years, we expect our emergency management program to continue growing as our plans for a joint 9-1-1 communications and emergency operations center have been approved. With support from County Executive Stuart Pittman, County Council, and Congressman Sarbanes, we eagerly started the planning and design phase of this new project along with partners from our County Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works, and other County agencies. This long-term project will help strengthen our County's public safety operations and improve our preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

As we continue to see improvements in our program, we would like to highlight some of our accomplishments. That is why I am pleased to present this first edition of our annual report explaining the purpose of our office, its four units, and some of our achievements from 2022. I encourage you to visit our website to learn more about our office at [www.aacounty.org/oem](http://www.aacounty.org/oem) and follow us on social media for preparedness tips and upcoming events.

 Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management

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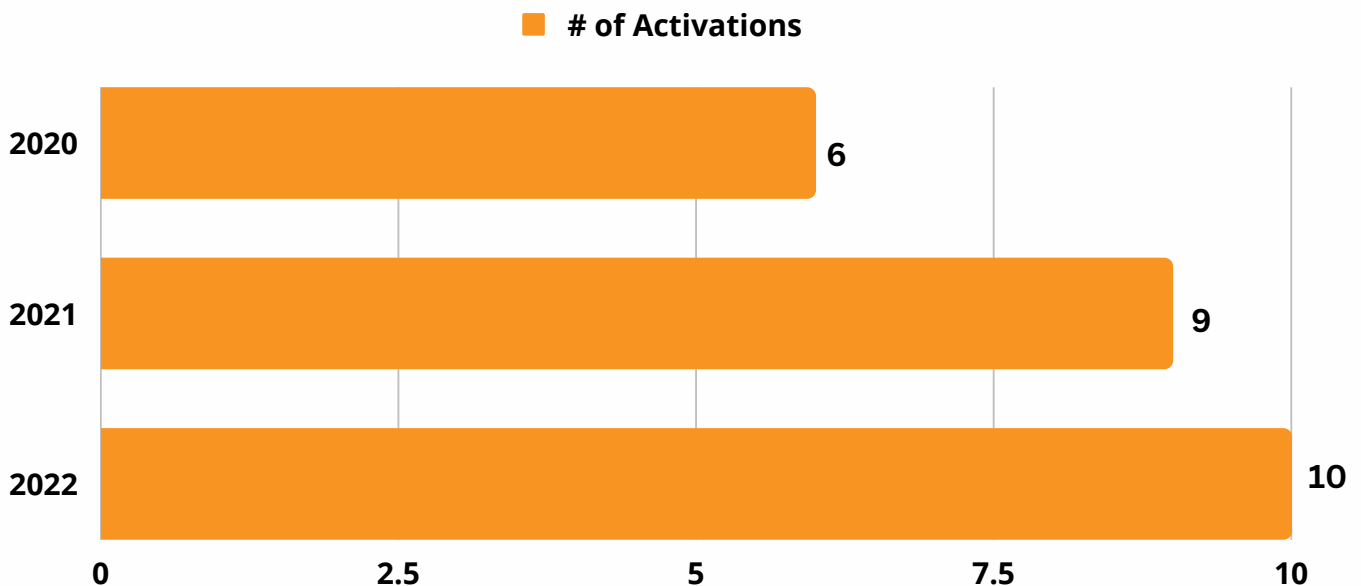
# OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

The Operations and Planning Unit ensures plans, policies, and procedures reflect the County's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. This unit also manages the County's Mass Notification System and coordinates special events planning with public safety agencies.



## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) ACTIVATIONS

Over the past three years, we have seen an increase in the frequency of severe storms impacting Anne Arundel County and an increase in special events in the area leading to more frequent activations of our EOC. In 2022, we activated for 4 winter storms, 4 severe weather events, 1 tropical storm, and 1 day where multiple special events were taking place throughout the County. As the frequency of both planned and unplanned events continues to increase, we are improving training and logistics to support these operations.





## **DISASTER RELIEF LEGISLATION**

Following passed legislation in the Maryland State Legislature, Anne Arundel County OEM and the City of Annapolis OEM co-chaired the State Disaster Relief Fund Workgroup to develop recommendations on how to improve the process of providing disaster relief for localized disasters. Small-scale incidents are occurring more frequently and affect local jurisdictions without enough damage to qualify for state or federal disaster relief programs. The initiative includes exploring State disaster relief funds that would benefit local jurisdictions like Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.



**June 2022 - Extended utility outages during a period of extreme heat impacting residents in Cape Anne.**



**September 2021 - A tornado caused destruction to residential and commercial properties in Edgewater and Annapolis.**

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## **PLANNING EFFORTS**

Plans currently being updated:

- Anne Arundel County Cyber Incident Coordination Plan
- Anne Arundel County Disaster Volunteer Management Plan
- Anne Arundel County Evacuation Plan
- Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis Family Information Center Plan
- Anne Arundel County Fixed Nuclear Facilities Plan
- Anne Arundel County Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Plans that were finalized in 2022:

- Office of Emergency Management Emergency Action Plan
- Office of Emergency Management Continuity of Operations Plan
- Office of Emergency Management Language Access Plan
- Anne Arundel County Extreme Temperature Plan
- Anne Arundel County Mass Care Sheltering Plan
- Anne Arundel County Damage Assessment Plan
- Anne Arundel County Road Closure Standard Operating Procedure
- Anne Arundel County Family Information Center Standard Operating Procedure

# TRAINING AND EXERCISE

The Training and Exercise Unit maintains and facilitates a comprehensive training program for the Office of Emergency Management and its partnering agencies. This unit works with participating County, State, local, and non-governmental agencies to coordinate regular training and exercises to develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and capabilities to effectively prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potential emergencies and disasters that may affect County residents, businesses, and visitors.

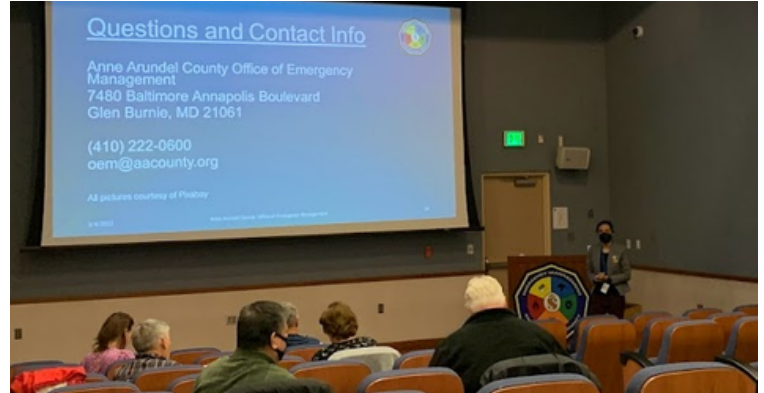


## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

In the Spring, we conducted a discussion-based exercise for our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) representatives to talk through response and recovery functions in preparation for hurricane season. Later in the year we hosted an operations-based exercise for EOC representatives to conduct some of their roles and responsibilities in preparation for the winter storm season. For both exercises we had representatives from Public Safety, Infrastructure, Health and Human Services, and non-governmental organizations.

## DAM GOOD DAY

We hosted a facilitated discussion for our County's dam owners, inspectors, and our Maryland State Dam Safety Official. This discussion helped all of our involved partners better understand the roles and responsibilities associated with dam operations during failures.



## MASS CARE SHELTER COT DRILL

We hosted a cot drill at the Anne Arundel Community College with representatives from the Department of Social Services, Central Services, and Anne Arundel - Annapolis Community Response Team (AAACERT) volunteers. This helped prepare the agencies responsible for helping with cot delivery and set-up for mass care shelters. We also had local, state, and regional partners participate as observers and evaluators to help identify areas of improvement.

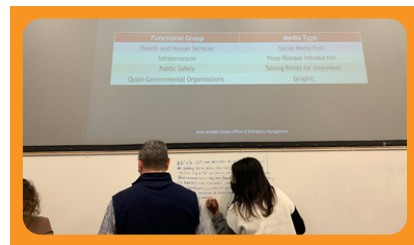


## BREAKDOWN OF EXERCISES

In 2022, we implemented the 2022-2024 Integrated Preparedness Plan which allowed us to provide more discussion-based and operations-based training opportunities and exercises for our partners. We also participated in more exercises in 2022 that were hosted by other jurisdictions including Ft. Meade and Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport.

### Discussion-Based

- Joint Information Center Tabletop Discussion
- Emergency Operations Center Tabletop Discussion
- Active Assailant Tabletop Discussion
- Dam Tabletop Discussion



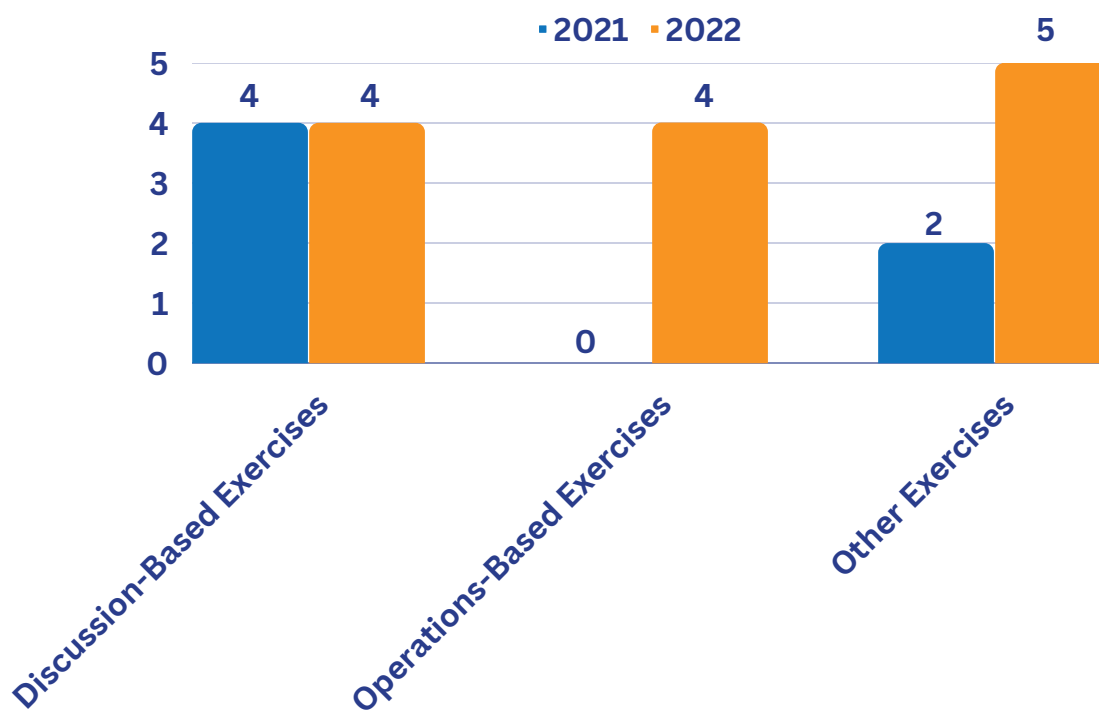
### Operations-Based

- Mass Care Shelter Cot Drill
- Emergency Management Planner Drill
- Family Information Center Phone Line Drill
- Emergency Operations Center Functional



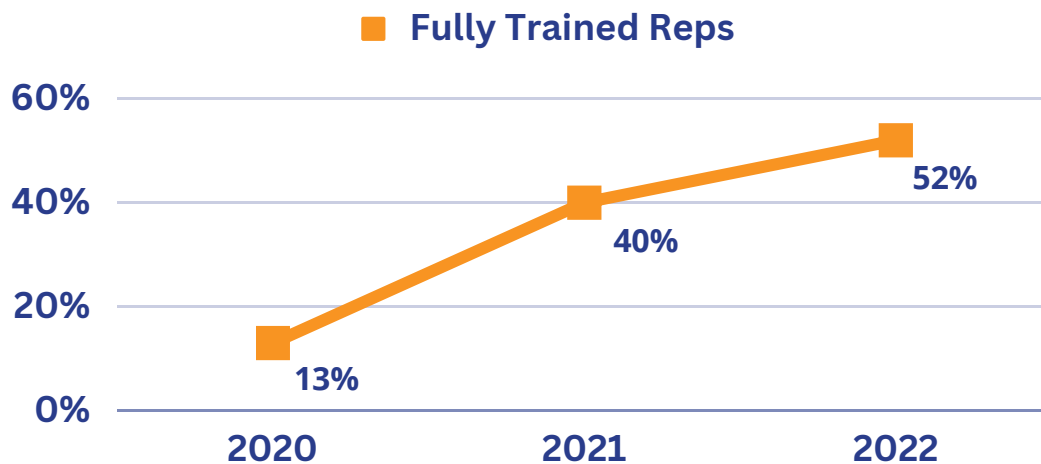
### Others

- City of Annapolis Dam Tabletop Discussion
- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and Dichotomy Power Brighton Dam Tabletop Discussion
- Ft. Meade Full Scale Exercise
- BWI Functional Exercise
- Maryland State Police Active Shooter Functional Exercise



## INCREASED TRAINING

In 2021, we began an initiative to increase the number of fully-trained County agency Emergency Operations Center (EOC) representatives (Reps). To remain compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), a fully-trained EOC Rep must complete six Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Independent Study (IS) courses providing the foundation of emergency management and the Incident Command System (ICS). Since 2020, we have seen a substantial increase in compliance which has improved our preparedness for activations. By providing multiple sessions of the required trainings again in 2023, we expect this percentage to continue to improve.



## TYPES OF TRAINING OFFERED

This year, we used a combination of in-person and virtual trainings to better prepare our staff and emergency operations center representatives. Required trainings were made readily available to help increase the total number of fully-trained reps.

- FEMA IS 100 EOC Rep Training
- FEMA IS 200 EOC Rep Training
- FEMA IS 230 EOC Rep Training
- FEMA IS 700 EOC Rep Training
- FEMA IS 800 EOC Rep Training
- FEMA IS 2200 EOC Rep Training
- Basic WebEOC Training
- Advanced Emergency Operations Center Operations
- G191 Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface
- CPR/First Aid and Stop the Bleed Training
- Emergency Management Law



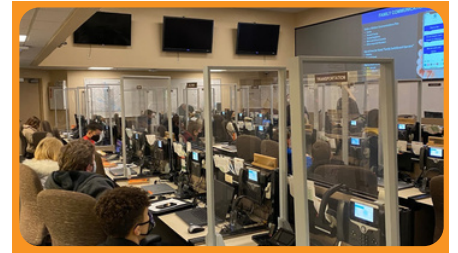


# COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The Communications and Outreach Unit ensures that timely and accurate information is shared with the public and County agencies before, during, and after emergencies and disasters. This unit increases public awareness and education through social media, traditional media, presentations, and by attending community events.

## IT'S A SNOW DAY EVENT

In January, we hosted "It's a Snow Day" where students learned about the County's response to winter storms and simulated managing a natural disaster.



## FIRST ANNUAL SHADOW DAY CONTEST

Three local high schools participated in an emergency preparedness PSA/essay contest, with six winners spending a day shadowing our Director. They toured the Emergency Operations Center, simulated responding to a disaster, and met Pepper the Preparedness Pup.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

During the summer of 2022, we hosted two interns, Daria and Isaiah, in coordination with Anne Arundel Workforce Development Youth Services and the Office of the County Executive. They spent six weeks with us, learning about emergency management functions and the importance of individual preparedness.



## PEPPER THE PREPAREDNESS PUP

Pepper joined our team in 2021 to help us encourage children and young adults to always be prepared for disasters. In 2022, she continued to share preparedness tips through her [animated video series](#), attending events and demonstrating how to shelter in place and evacuate. Now Pepper even has her own [Preparedness Adventure Workbook](#) which features her recommended reading list and helps kids learn about emergency preparedness through a variety of activities. Follow us on [social media](#) to keep up with Pepper and her preparedness tips!

## HISPANIC OUTREACH

Our Outreach Specialist, Jorge Paucar, is a native Spanish speaker who conducts English, Spanish, and bilingual presentations at community events, senior centers, and schools. Jorge also created a weekly series called Sabado Especial to share preparedness tips in Spanish on our Facebook page. We have built a stronger relationship with our Hispanic community through these efforts, and we will continue to spread awareness of our ability to offer these services in Spanish.



## FOOD INSECURITY AND RESILIENCE

As a member of the Agricultural Commission, our Director, Preeti Emrick, visited Wild Kid Acres to talk about food insecurity and building a more resilient community. This was a great opportunity to form a new partnership within the County and explain the importance of everyone's role in emergency preparedness.



## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SEMINAR

We hosted a virtual interdenominational webinar series, Protecting Our Houses of Worship, in conjunction with the Health Department, Police Department, and the US Department of Homeland Security. The series covered topics including emergency planning, COVID-19 best practices, physical security, cybersecurity, active shooter training, and a facilitated discussion. We are excited to offer the series again in the Spring of 2023 with the additional support of the Department of Justice and the FBI.



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO

After canceling our annual Emergency Preparedness Expo for two years due to COVID-19, we were so glad to bring it back in September 2022, for National Preparedness Month. Our Emergency Preparedness Expo is a free, family-friendly event with hands-on displays, games, and activities to provide a fun-filled way to learn about preparing for emergencies. This helps increase both individual and community preparedness in our County. Follow us on social media so you don't miss out on Expo 2023.





# SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Special Projects Unit organizes, leads, and helps execute projects that may fall outside the scope of regular duties. This unit assists with grant management, oversees public assistance reimbursement after disasters, and maintains the operational readiness of the Emergency Operations Center. The Special Projects Unit also manages our call center during emergencies and manages logistics for mass care sheltering supplies.



## AFGHAN RELIEF

In response to nearly 200 Afghan Refugees living in Anne Arundel County who needed assistance, we coordinated the opening of a welcome center at a local hotel and began partnering with the non-profit organization Luminus and County agencies to connect refugees with local resources including food, coats, toys, school supplies, and masks for COVID-19 precautions. We have also coordinated with linguists at Fort Meade, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers at Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and Anne Arundel County Public Libraries staff to provide English learning classes, enrichment for children, school registration, staff meetings, and Friday prayer services. This effort has had great success, and we are continuing to assist families in need.

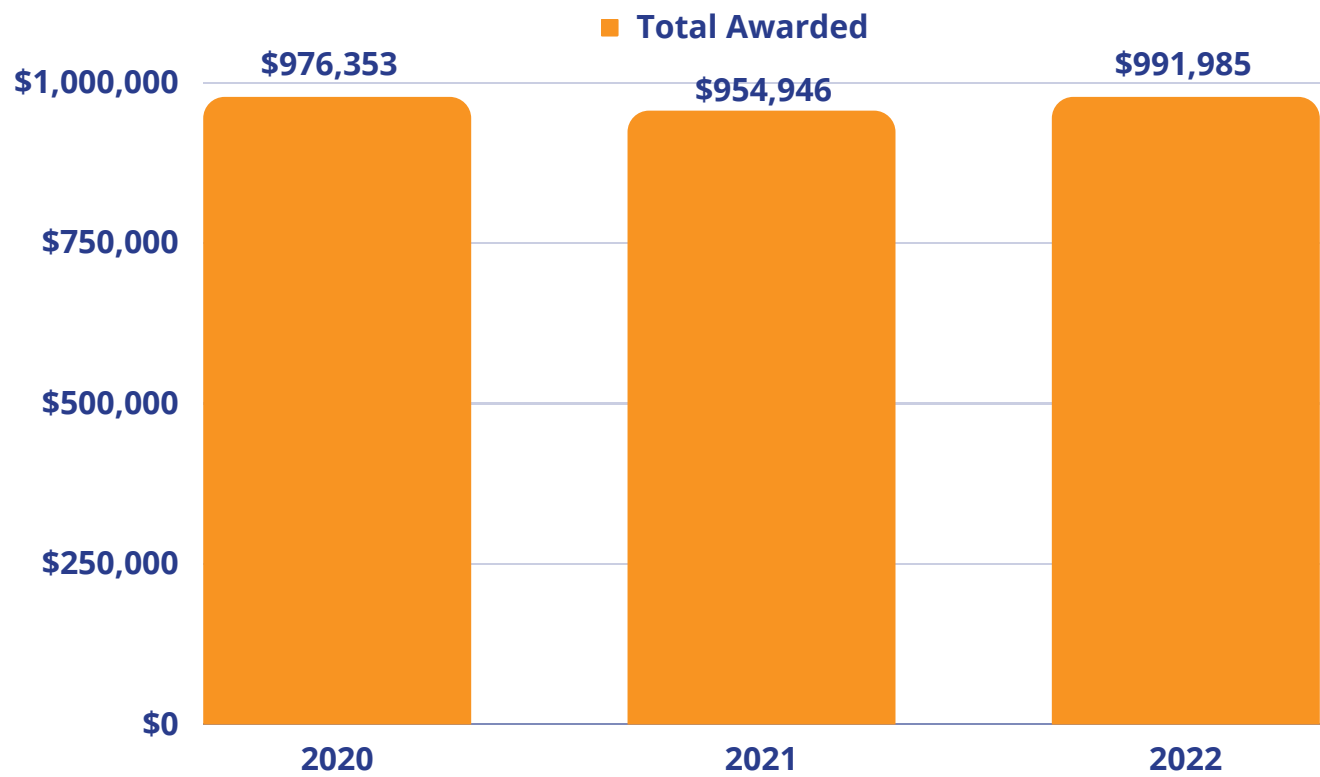
**\$8,052,295.95**  
IN FEDERAL  
REIMBURSEMENT

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT

During disasters, local jurisdictions have to quickly make decisions to provide resources to the affected communities. Once a local, state, or federal disaster is declared, it allows local jurisdictions to apply for reimbursement of disaster-related expenses. During COVID-19, our County covered the initial cost of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), increased public safety and public health operations, food distribution, and non-congregate housing. After working with our partners to collect data, total costs, and justifications, we submitted for federal reimbursement and were awarded \$8,052,295.95.

### GRANT MANAGEMENT

The FEMA-funded grants that we manage allow us to financially support projects, initiatives, and programs for the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Fire Department, and the Police Department. Every 3 years we assess what grants are needed and, if we receive the funding, we begin utilizing the funds over the next 3 years. Our grants management team works to track spending and ensure that the use of funds follows local and Federal purchasing guidelines. This fiscal year, we were awarded \$991,985 across multiple grants to fund identified emergency management and public safety projects.



### EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER CAPITAL PROJECT

Earlier this year, the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act was signed, which includes an earmark request for \$2,471,500 to fund our Joint 9-1-1 Communications and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Capital Project. The EOC is responsible for managing the County's response to emergencies and disasters. This federal funding will be used to conduct a needs assessment to identify the capabilities necessary for successful coordination between state, local, and federal governments, non-governmental organizations, and volunteer groups when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from any hazard. After the needs assessment is concluded, the funds will be used to help put its findings into action.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

We were pleased to accept the nomination of the 2022 Spirit of Community Award from the Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce and Meade High School for building partnerships and strengthening our community resiliency.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARD

Two of our staff members, Jorge Paucar and Briana Kracke, were awarded the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce Community Safety Award for their work in Hispanic outreach and training/exercise.



## GOVERNOR'S CITATION

Our Public Information Officer, Kasey Thomas, received recognition from Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford for assisting Florida with Hurricane Ian recovery. She deployed as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which allows us to help when other jurisdictions need it the most.



## CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MANAGER (CEM) DESIGNATION

Our Training and Exercise Coordinator, Briana Kracke, and Senior Emergency Management Planner, Joe Seborowski, were awarded their CEM designation acknowledging that they have demonstrated an advanced understanding of emergency management and contributed to improving the emergency management field.



# Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management

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