

Proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures. Requires Board approval.

## **SECTION X: AFFINITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

### **X.1 Purpose**

The Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) establishes the Affinity Partnership Program to provide members access to vetted resources, services, and solutions that support emergency management functions, with emphasis on Preparedness, Mitigation, and Recovery in support of response operations.

### **X.2 Authority**

This program is established by the IESMA Board of Directors under the Policies and Procedures.

- This section does not amend the Constitution and By-Laws
- All partnerships require Board approval
- The Board retains authority to approve, deny, or terminate participation

### **X.3 Guiding Principles**

The program shall operate consistent with the following:

- Mission Alignment: Supports preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery
- Neutrality: IESMA does not endorse specific vendors or services
- Transparency: Criteria and participation are applied consistently
- Equity: Participation is fair and not unjustifiably exclusive
- Integrity: Activities uphold public trust and professional standards

### **X.4 Non-Endorsement**

Participation in the program does not constitute endorsement by IESMA.

IESMA does not guarantee partner services and assumes no liability. Members are responsible for independent evaluation.

### **X.5 Eligibility**

Organizations may be considered if they:

- Provide a clear benefit to IESMA members
- Demonstrate relevance to emergency management or public safety

- Operate in a lawful and ethical manner
- Agree to comply with program requirements

#### **X.6 Approval Process**

- Interested organizations submit an application in a format approved by IESMA
- Applications are reviewed by the Executive Board or designee
- Final approval is made by the Board of Directors and recorded in official minutes

#### **X.7 Term and Renewal**

- Partnerships are typically approved for a one (1) year term
- Renewal is subject to continued compliance and Board approval

#### **X.8 Conflict of Interest**

Any Board member with a conflict of interest shall disclose the conflict and recuse themselves from review and approval.

#### **X.9 Termination**

IESMA may terminate participation at any time if a partner fails to comply with program requirements or if the relationship conflicts with the mission or interests of the Association.

#### **X.10 Administration**

The program shall be administered by the Executive Board or its designee.

#### **X.11 Review**

This section may be reviewed and amended by the Board of Directors as needed.