

2023 Iowa Homeland Security Conference

October 11-13, 2023

Speaker & Professional title:

Jessica Catron Pugh, FEMA Region VII, Community Assistance RSF Coordinator

Speaker Biography:

Jessica Catron Pugh is FEMA Region VII Community Assistance RSF Coordinator. Since joining FEMA in January 2023, she has already served as Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator on deployment to Mississippi (DR-4697) following deadly tornadoes and storms. She led the State through the development of a Disaster Recovery Framework and the hosting of FEMA's first-ever multi-state Just-in-Time Training for community capacity building. Prior to joining FEMA, she was the first full-time, steady-state State Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the State of Missouri. Jessica previously worked in the Missouri House of Representatives as a Legislative Aide for seven legislative sessions, focusing on rural communities, agriculture, economic development, first responder safety and recognition, education issues, and government transparency. She completed her Bachelor of Sciences degree in Social Science from Central Methodist University, and her Master of Arts degree from the University of Central Missouri, with a research focus on governmental crisis communication and the best practices of social media before and after natural disasters.