FEMA Guidance for Education, Government and Health Care Entities During COVID-19

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FEMA Guidance during COVID-19

Today’s Panel

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FEMA’s Role

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is the statutory authority for most Federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and FEMA programs.

FEMA’s typical disaster role is as a coordinator and resource provider:
• Coordinates federal response.
  – Federal agencies.
  – States.
• Provides resources to state and local governments.
  – Physical resources:
    - Personnel, equipment, supplies.
  – Financial resources:
    - For most major disasters, it’s simply a financial transaction where FEMA reimburses state and local governments and eligible non-profits for the costs they incurred responding to and recovering from disasters.
Coronavirus is not a typical disaster.

• It’s a communicable disease that isn’t constrained to any one geographic area.
  – Hurricane might strike a state, or perhaps several states.
  – All 50 states could be impacted by coronavirus.

• Resources need to be appropriately tailored.
  – Congregate sheltering generally not an option.
  – Personal protective equipment necessary.
Public Assistance Responsibilities

Successful execution of the FEMA Public Assistance program requires close coordination between all parties.

• FEMA.
  – Headquarters.
  – Regions.

• The Recipient (the State).
  – Subrecipients (“Applicants” for funding).
    - State agencies.
    - Municipal governments.
    - Eligible private non-profits.
FEMA Programs

President Trump declared a national emergency on March 13 that triggered an emergency declaration under the Stafford Act.

• Subsequently, each state has requested and been granted a major disaster under the Stafford Act.
• The nationwide emergency declaration and states’ major disaster declarations all authorize category B emergency protective measures under the FEMA public assistance program.
  – FEMA authorized to reimburse category B expenses at a 75% federal / 25% state cost share.
  – FEMA authorized to provide direct federal assistance as required.
• The FEMA administrator has the authority to add additional categories of assistance under the FEMA public assistance and individual assistance programs in the future.
FEMA Guidance

FEMA has produced specific guidance based on the unique circumstances of the coronavirus response:


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Public Assistance Eligibility
Four Tiers of Eligibility – All Must Be Eligible to Obtain FEMA Funding

COST

WORK

FACILITY

APPLICANT
Public Assistance Process and Timeline

1. Attend virtual applicant briefing
2. Log on or create account at Public Assistance (PA) grants portal
3. Submit Request for Public Assistance (RPA)
4. Submit COVID-19 Project Worksheet (PW) (and docs)
5. FEMA and state (recipient) review documents
6. Sign final grant
7. Receive funding
Public Assistance Process and Timeline

- Initiate contact with the state(s) in which you operate (i.e. NYSDHSES or NJOEM).
- Attend or download Applicant Briefing that will contain important state specific information.
- File Request for Public Assistance and gain access to the Grant Portal.
- Important to note – normally there is a 30 day deadline from the date of declaration to file an RPA. That deadline has been lifted for the time being. States will advise of RPA deadline when it is established.
Public Assistance Process and Timeline

- Program Delivery Manager (PDM) will be assigned.
- You will work with PDM throughout the process to prepare Project Worksheets and submit necessary information & documentation.
- You will uploading documents to Grants Portal however, you must maintain your own, separate file for audit purposes.
- Current incident period is Jan 20, 2020 through Sep. 20, 2020 (end date subject to extension).
- Final grant review including reconciliation of all funding streams, appeal process if necessary, final funding and close out.
Procurement and Contract

• All contracts and purchases must comply with all local, State and Federal procurement requirements.
  – Competitively bid contracts are preferred.
  – Some requirements may be relaxed due to circumstances of COVID-19 (i.e. Procurement under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances).
  – Trying to extend the “exigent” period to avoid procurement requirements (i.e. competitive bidding) is an audit red flag.

• Restrictions on Contracts.

• Management Costs.
Project Worksheets

- Project Sizes
  - Minimum Threshold = $3,300
  - Small Project < $131,100
    - Project Worksheet (PW) is written on Estimated or Actual Cost.
    - Paid upon Project Worksheet (PW) obligation.
  - Large Project > $131,100
    - Paid based on % of work completed.

- Information Required.
- Appeals Process.
Additional Resources

- FEMA COVID-19 Resources: https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus
- FEMA Grants Portal: https://grantee.fema.gov/
- FEMA Procurement Assistance: www.fema.gov/procurement-disaster-assistance-team
- To check on contractor status: www.SAM.gov
Q&A

To submit a question, click on the Q&A button on the bottom of your screen.

If your question is not answered during today's program, someone from Marsh will respond as soon as possible.
Managing COVID-19 Risks

Visit our Pandemic Risk Hub on marsh.com for the latest from Marsh and other Marsh & McLennan businesses, including our new report on COVID-19 insurance coverage, claims, and risk management considerations.

Join us again on Wednesday, April 22, for more information and insights on how you can manage your risk as the pandemic continues. Visit marsh.com to register.