



Public Assistance for Federal Disaster Grants
Category B: Emergency Protective Measures Fact Sheet
COVID-19 Disaster EM-3448

Background:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program provides supplemental assistance to states, tribes, and local governmental entities, as well as certain private non-profit organizations (hereinafter referred to as applicants). FEMA’s *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide* (<http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-policy-and-guidance>) provides comprehensive information regarding assistance that FEMA can provide and the requirements that applicants must follow in order to receive the assistance.

Summary:

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide essential information for potential applicants with eligible Emergency Work, Category B: Emergency Protective Measures. Emergency Work is performed to either reduce or eliminate an immediate threat to life, protect public health and safety, and/ or to protect improved property that is significantly vulnerable due to a disaster or emergency.

FEMA Public Assistance Program:

In accordance with section 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”), eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed under Category B of FEMA’s Public Assistance program. FEMA will not duplicate assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or other federal agencies. State, tribal, and local government entities and certain private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Public Assistance. FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent of total eligible costs. Local governments and other eligible PA applicants will apply through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

PA Eligibility Pyramid



COVID-19 Disaster Eligible Assistance:

Under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration described above, FEMA may provide assistance for emergency protective measures including, but not limited to, the following, if not funded by the HHS/CDC or other federal agency. While some activities listed may be eligible for funding through



Virginia Department of
Emergency Management
COVID-19 RECOVERY



HHS/CDC, final reimbursement determinations will be coordinated by HHS and FEMA. FEMA will not duplicate any assistance provided by HHS/CDC):

1. Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety:
 - Emergency Operation Center costs
 - Training specific to the declared event
 - Disinfection of eligible public facilities
 - Technical assistance to state, tribal, territorial or local governments on emergency management and control of immediate threats to public health and safety
2. Emergency medical care:
 - Non-deferrable medical treatment of infected persons in a shelter or temporary medical facility
 - Related medical facility services and supplies
 - Temporary medical facilities and/or enhanced medical/hospital capacity (for treatment when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near term and cannot accommodate the patient load or to quarantine potentially infected persons)
 - Use of specialized medical equipment
 - Medical waste disposal
 - Emergency medical transport
3. Medical sheltering (e.g. when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near future and cannot accommodate needs)
 - All sheltering must be conducted in accordance with standards and/or guidance approved by HHS/CDC and must be implemented in a manner that incorporates social distancing measures
 - Non-congregate medical sheltering is subject to prior approval by FEMA and is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the public health needs of the event, is pursuant to the direction of appropriate public health officials and does not extend beyond the duration of the Public Health Emergency
4. Household pet sheltering and containment actions related to household pets in accordance with CDC guidelines
5. Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine, and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous material suits Movement of supplies and persons
6. Security and law enforcement
7. Communications of general health and safety information to the public
8. Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance
9. Reimbursement for state, tribe, territory and/or local government force account overtime costs



Documentation Recommendations:

There is no one-sized-fits-all approach to documenting damage, work, and costs, or to collecting supporting documentation. Cost recovery and/or damage assessment teams must weigh the benefit of increased accuracy against the timeline for delivering necessary assistance.

Labor (Force Account):

For the purpose of cost recovery assessments, potential applicants may choose to use average pay rates for groups of force account employees performing similar work, if calculating the actual cost for individual employees is time prohibitive. In either case, the rate claimed needs to be reasonable for the type of work performed.

The applicant should document:

- Number of employees performing a given task
- Type of employee (budgeted or unbudgeted)
- Type of work being performed
- Regular time and overtime hours worked
- Hourly rate claimed in the summary

Equipment (Force Account):

Potential applicants may estimate the cost of force account equipment using [FEMA equipment rates](#), or Tribal, State, or local equipment rates that meet the criteria defined by FEMA.

The applicant should document:

- Type of equipment that was leased
- Type of work being performed
- Cost of the leased equipment in a summary
- Leased equipment would be similar to contracting requirements

Materials and Supplies:

The cost of supplies and materials should be based on invoices, potential applicant's established methods for pricing supplies and materials, historic prices for materials, or prices from area vendors



Virginia Department of
Emergency Management
COVID-19 RECOVERY



FEMA will consider the cost of supplies, including materials, if:

- The supplies or materials are or will be purchased and are justifiably needed to effectively respond to and/or recover from the incident; or
- The supplies are or will be taken from the potential applicant's stock and used for the incident

Contract Services:

FEMA will consider the cost of contract services based on the terms of the contract.

The applicant should document:

- All contract work and costs in a summary
- Description of the work performed under the contract
- The estimate, bid, or executed contract itself

Mutual Aid Agreements:

When a potential applicant requests resources from another jurisdiction through a mutual aid agreement, FEMA will consider costs incurred by the potential applicant.

The applicant should include:

- Labor costs (similar to Force Account Labor requirements listed above)
- Equipment costs (similar to equipment requirements listed above)
- Supply and/or materials costs (similar to the supply/material requirements listed above)

Additional Information:

[Click Here for Instructions on How to Submit Your COVID-19 Cost Estimates to VDEM](#)

[Visit our VirginiaPA.org site for Public Assistance Cost Tracking Templates and Resources](#)

[Visit the FEMA Website for Additional FEMA Public Assistance Fact Sheets](#)

Contact: For questions about Public Assistance or COVID-19 Category B: Emergency Protective Measures, please email the VDEM Finance and Recovery team directly at recovery@vdem.virginia.gov