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COVID-19 Weekly Updates

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INTRODUCTION OF PANELISTS

Chief Gary Ludwig, IAFC President

Chief John Sinclair, IAFC COVID-19 TF

Dr. Jim Augustine, MD, FACEP, IAFC COVID-19 TF, EMS Section Representative

Mr. Ken LaSala, IAFC Director of Government Relations

AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Chief Keith Bryant, US Fire Administrator

Starlene Black, Deputy Section Chief, FEMA Public Assistance Training Office



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Fire Chief Gary Ludwig

IAFC President



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Fire Chief John Sinclair

Chair COVID19 Task Force



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Dr. James Augustine MD, FACEP

Member COVID19 Task Force



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Coronavirus What we are Learning

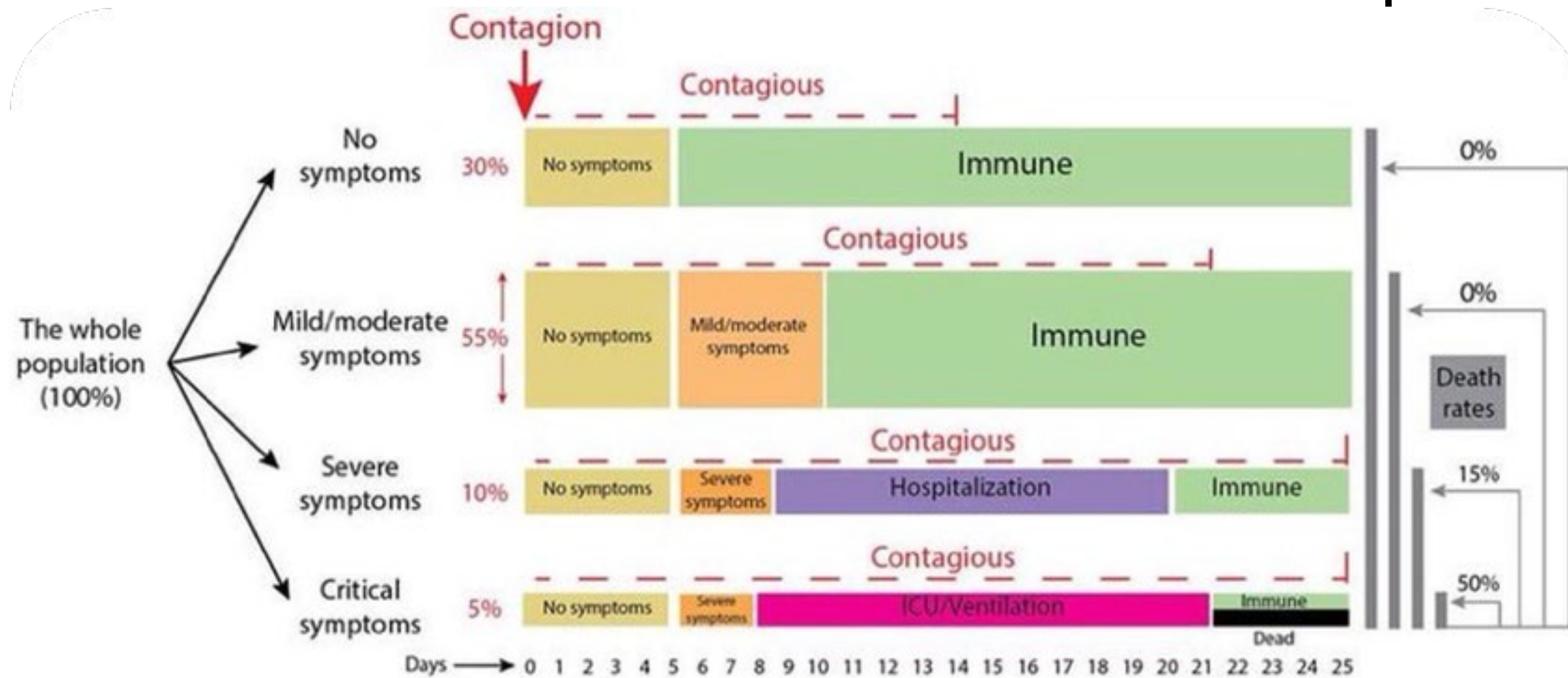
- Symptoms on presentation to EMS are wide
- GI symptoms seem to be more common in US
- Getting more patients who are KNOWN POSITIVE, and getting sicker, and need EMS care and transport
- Pulse Oximetry is the best monitor device



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Time Sequence



References:

1. The Incubation Period of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) From Publicly Reported Confirmed Cases: Estimation and Application. Lauer SA et al. Ann Intern Med. 2020 Mar 10.
2. Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID19 mortality and healthcare demand. Neil M Ferguson et al. Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team. 16 March 2020.
3. Viral dynamics in mild and severe cases of Covid-19. Yang Liu et al. The Lancet, March 19, 2020.



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Patient Approach

- Immediately provide surgical mask to patients
- Minimize personnel contacting patient
- Pulse Oximetry is the best monitor device
- *Nebulizer treatments outside, crew more than 6 feet away, patient's clothes covered with a sheet left at the scene*



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Workforce

“What we can’t do during a battle, is lose our forces.”

Personnel Health and Safety

- Station common areas – surgical/personal masks
- Checking personnel health on arrival for shift or response – symptoms first, then temperature
- Health monitor process/forms each staff member



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The 911 Challenges

- Growing number of areas are developing “No Response” processes, with Public Health receiving the handoffs
- The Senior Care sites are at huge risk – need for them to have doctor/nurse evaluation in-house



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Testing is Becoming Available

- Entering into a phase where tests will become available. Some with rapid answers
- Still be tests looking for the virus
- Later we will be looking for antibody tests



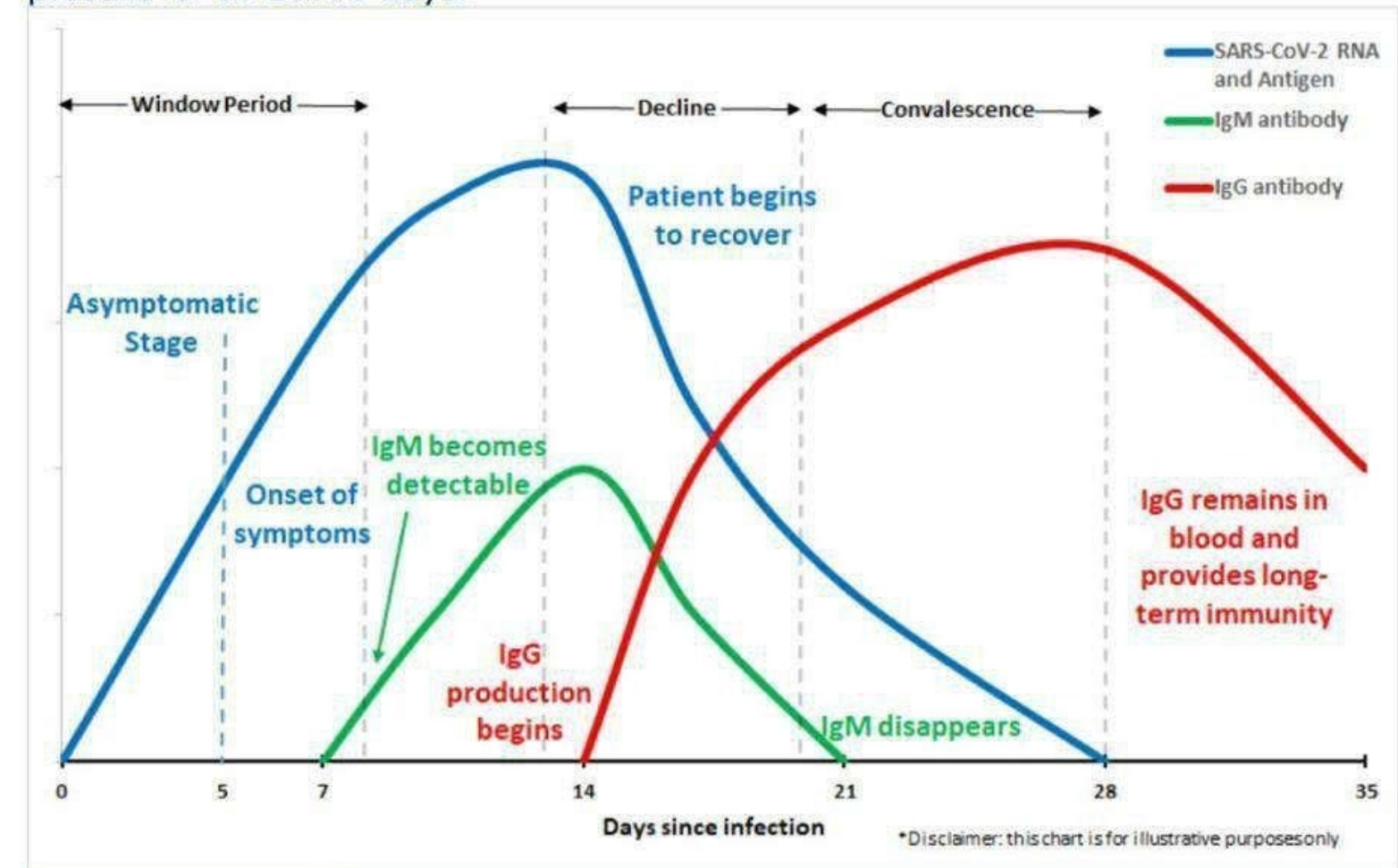
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COVID Testing Sequence

- Entering into a phase where tests will become available
- Some with rapid answers looking for the virus
- Later we will be looking for antibody tests
- You will begin to see diagrams to help explain testing

Therefore, this COVID-19 Rapid Test should not be used until symptoms have been present for at least 3 days.



Test results			Clinical Significance
PCR	IgM	IgG	
+	-	-	Patient may be in the window period of infection.
+	+	-	Patient may be in the early stage of infection.
+	+	+	Patient is in the active phase of infection.
+	-	+	Patient may be in the late or recurrent stage of infection.
-	+	-	Patient may be in the early stage of infection. PCR result may be false-negative.



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**3,500 New Cars
\$100M Loss**

Fire at RSW in Rental Car Overflow Field





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Ken LaSala

Government Relations Director
IAFC



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Funding

- April 2 – Letter to FEMA Administrator Gaynor re: AFG/SAFER Application Periods
- April 6 – Letter to HHS Secretary Azar re: \$100 billion Public Health & Social Services Emergency Fund
- 4th COVID-19 bill: Direct Funding to Reimburse Fire & EMS Departments for COVID-19 Response Expenses



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COVID19 – Cost Recovery for Fire and EMS

Chief Keith Bryant, US Fire

US Fire Administrator

Starlene Black, Deputy Section Chief

FEMA Public Assistance Training Office



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COVID19 – Cost Recovery for Fire and EMS

**THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IS CURRENT TO 4/6/2020
AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR MODIFICATION.**

4/6/2020



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COVID19 – Cost Recovery for Fire and EMS

America's Fire and EMS providers are engaged in responding to one of the worlds most significant medical emergencies in modern times.

4/6/2020



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COVID19 – Cost Recovery for Fire and EMS

This response is not without impact in terms of the fiscal strain of extraordinary personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies and apparatus usage.

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The fiscal impact may have some remedy through the **FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program.**

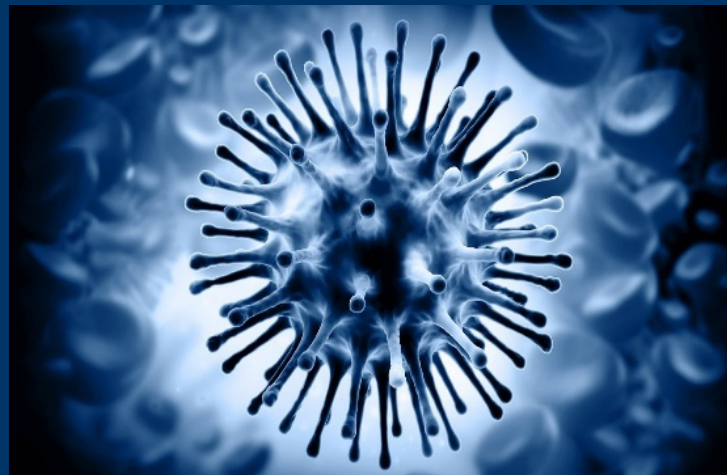


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Public Assistance For COVID-19 Declarations

Star Black, Deputy Section Chief
FEMA Public Assistance Training





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Agenda

Objective: Provide overview of the delivery of the Public Assistance (PA) grant program for COVID-19.

1. PA Process for COVID-19.
2. PA Eligibility.
3. Administrative Relief.
4. Documentation.
5. Next Steps.



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Public Assistance Process for COVID-19





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FEMA Public Assistance (PA)

FEMA's Public Assistance Program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so that the communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.



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Declaration Summary

Declaration Date: Emergency - March 13, 2020

Incident Period: January 20, 2020 and continuing

Type: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

Designated Areas*: All states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia

Cost Share: 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal



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COVID-19 PA Process Flow



Applicant presence required



Regulatory deadline



Approve materials online



Documentation required



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New Reimbursement Process Targeted to COVID-19 Declarations

Different from other FEMA PA Declarations, the process for COVID-19 features the following:

- Virtual Applicant Briefings.
- Direct Account Requests and RPA submission through Grants Portal (<https://grantee.fema.gov/>).
- Direct Application of COVID-19 Project Worksheet.



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COVID-19 Direct Application

For COVID-19 Declarations, Applicants will have the ability to apply for assistance directly through FEMA's Grants Portal without requiring traditional Exploratory Calls or Recovery Scoping Meetings.

FEMA's Quick Guides and How-To Videos provide step-by-step instructions and can be found in the Grants Portal, <https://grantee.fema.gov>.

For technical assistance with Grants Portal, Applicants can call the Grants Portal Hotline at 1-866-337-8448.



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COVID-19 Direct Application - PNP

At this time, cannot participate in direct application.

Contact your local Emergency Management Department, or appropriate State Emergency Management representative to apply for Public Assistance Funding.

They will assist you in establishing your Grants Portal account. You will need the following documents to establish your account:

- Charter/By-Laws.
- Proof of Nonprofit Status.
- Complete the FEMA PNP Questionnaire (located on FEMA.GOV).



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COVID-19 Direct Application – Grants Portal

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://grantee.fema.gov>

Grants Portal

Sign in to Your Account

USERNAME [Forgot your username?](#)

PASSWORD [Forgot your password?](#)

SIGN IN

[Register Your Organization and Request Public Assistance](#)

Click here to register your organization



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COVID-19 Direct Application – Grants Portal

Grants Portal


Welcome to the FEMA Grants Portal Registration!

This registration process is designed to assist you in quickly setting up your State and Local Government FEMA account and requesting [FEMA Public Assistance Funding](#). Once you verify yourself below, you will be required to provide basic information about your organization to be used during the approval of your request. You will have **1 hour** to complete this process.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ❗ **Non-profit organizations** should first reach out to their local Emergency Management Department, or appropriate State Emergency Management representative to apply for Public Assistance Funding.
- ❗ **Individuals** looking for Individual Assistance, please go to disasterassistance.gov for assistance.
- ❗ **Businesses** looking for assistance should visit the [Small Business Administration's disaster assistance website](#).
- ❗ **Tribal government organizations** applying as a Recipient should first reach out to their local FEMA Regional representative.

Please verify you are a human by clicking below.

I'm not a robot 
reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

Click here to confirm you are not a robot



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COVID-19 Direct Application – Grants Portal



Register Your Organization and Request FEMA Public Assistance

Please provide the following basic information to help us quickly set up your organization's account and process your request for **FEMA Public Assistance Funding**. Once completed your account and request will be submitted to your state/territory Emergency Management representative and FEMA for review and approval.

1 Basic Information 2 Organization 3 Contact Info 4 Locations 5 Submit

← PREV NEXT →

Please select your state and the applicable emergency/disaster where you are applying for funding.

WITHIN WHICH STATE / TERRITORY IS YOUR ORGANIZATION? *

District Of Columbia

WHICH EMERGENCY / DISASTER DO YOU WANT TO REQUEST PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR? *

Select...

District Of Columbia COVID-19 (4502DR-DC)



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PA Eligibility





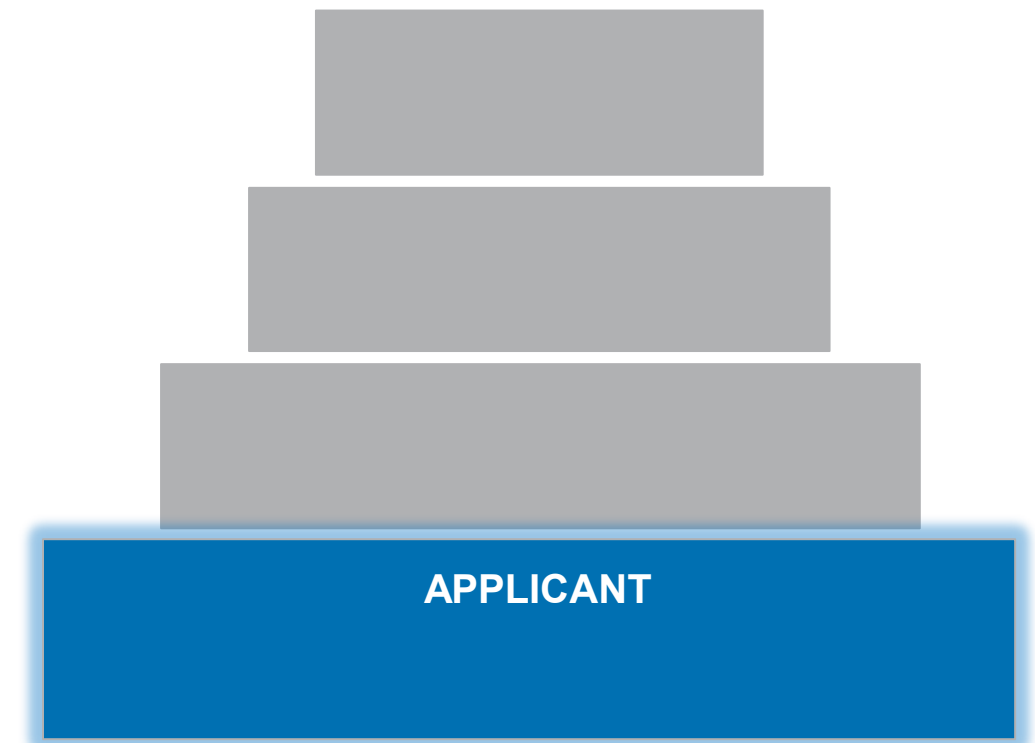
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Applicant Eligibility

Applicants or Subrecipients can be:

- State Agencies.
- Territorial Governments.
- Tribal Governments and Organizations.
- Counties and parishes.
- Municipalities, cities, towns, boroughs, and townships.





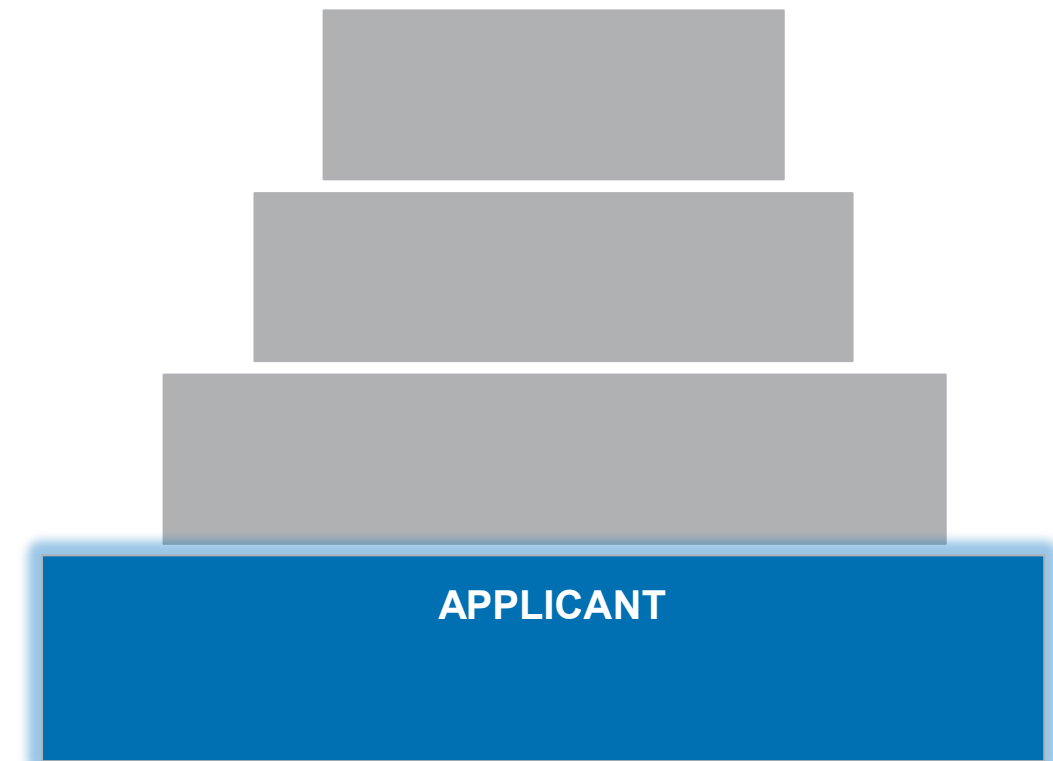
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Applicant Eligibility (continued)

Applicants or Subrecipients can be:

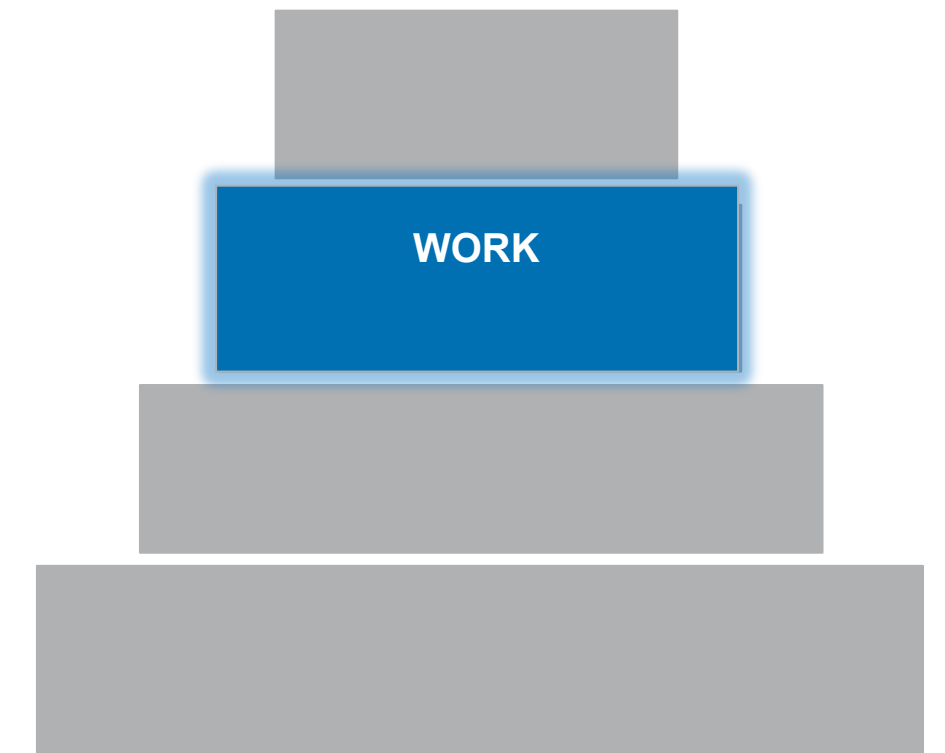
- Local public authorities.
- School districts.
- Agencies or instrumentalities of local governments.
- Special districts established under State law.
- Certain Private Non-Profit organizations (PNPs).





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Work Activity Eligibility

At a minimum, claimed Emergency Protective Measure work (also called “activities”) must meet each of the following criteria to be eligible:

- required as a result of the declared incident;
- located within the designated area; and
- the legal responsibility of an eligible Applicant.

For more information refer to the FACT SHEET: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures.



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Work Eligibility: PNP Applicants

Some PNPs may be eligible for FEMA assistance under COVID-19 declarations if they are legally responsible for performing emergency protective services.

PNPs that own or operate an eligible facility and perform eligible work, such as providing emergency, medical or custodial care services for which they are legally responsible in response to the COVID-19 incident, may be eligible for reimbursement of costs as a Public Assistance Applicant.

For more information refer to the FACT SHEET: Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Pandemic: Private Nonprofit Organizations.



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PA Eligible Work for COVID-19

Through the PA Program, FEMA provides grant funding for:

- Debris Removal (Category A)
- Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)
- Permanent Work (Category C to G)



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Category B: Emergency Protective Measures

Emergency Protective Measures eliminate or lessen immediate threats to lives, public health, or safety.



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Category B: Emergency Protective Measures Examples

- EOC-related costs.
- Medical care and transport.
- Evacuation and sheltering.
- Supplies and commodities, including medical supplies, PPE, and other equipment.



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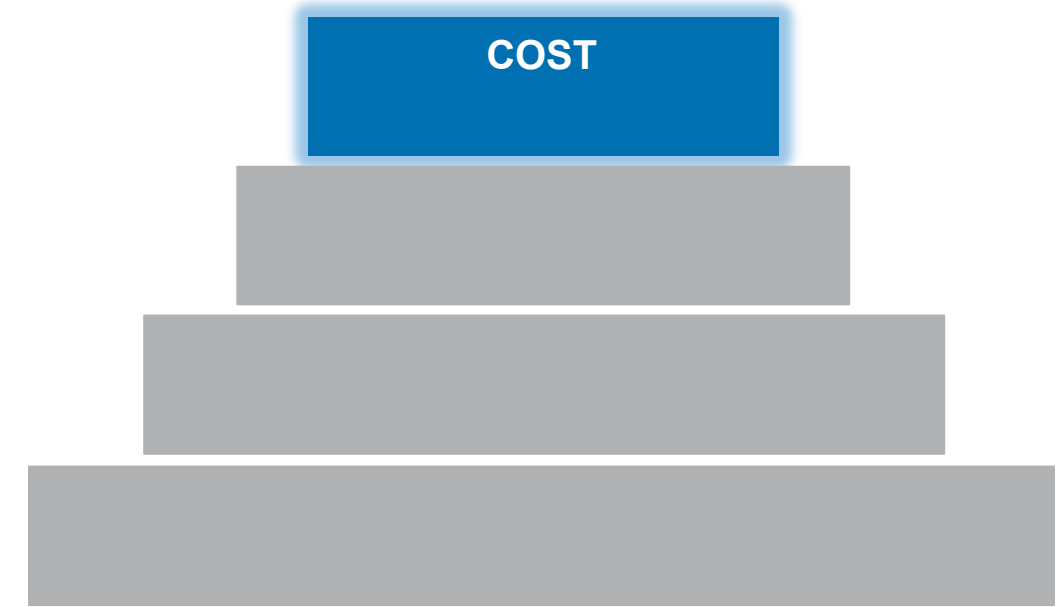
Category B: Emergency Protective Measures Examples (continued)

- Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance.
- Decontaminating eligible public facilities, to include emergency responder vehicles.
- Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine and other consumable supplies to include PPE and HAZMAT suits.



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Cost Eligibility

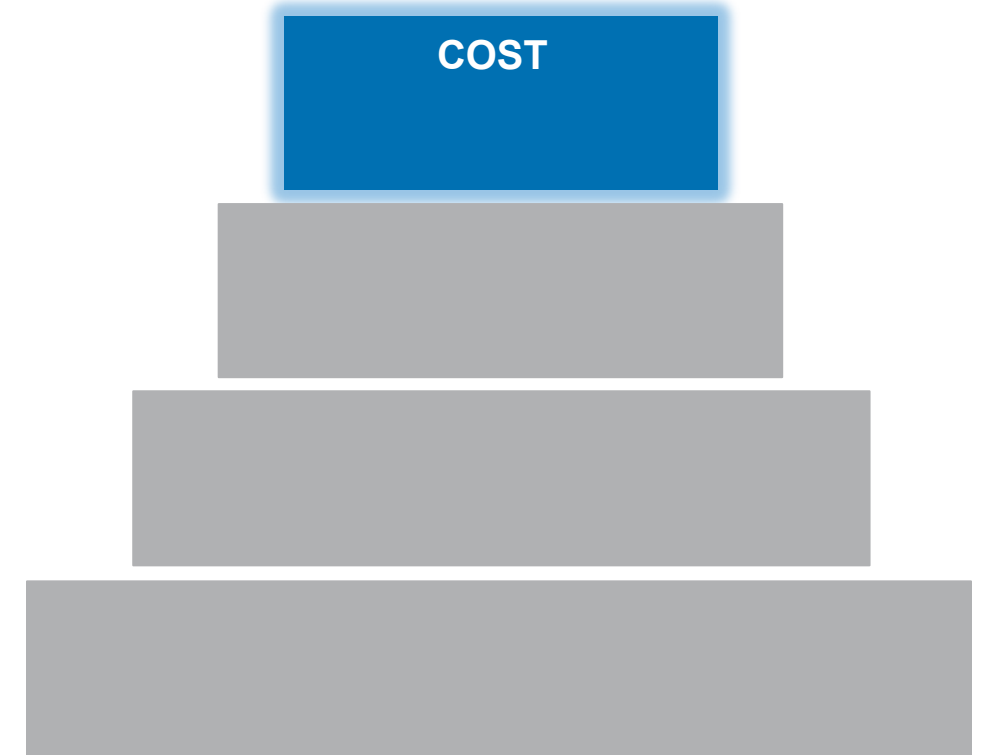
To be eligible for reimbursement, costs must be:

- Incurred from **eligible** work and adequately **documented**.
- **Reduced** by insurance proceeds, salvage value, or other credits.
- **Authorized and permitted** under Federal, State, Tribal, or local government laws or regulations.
- Consistent with the Applicant's **internal policies**, regulations, and procedures.
- **Necessary** and **reasonable** to accomplish the work properly and efficiently.



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Cost Eligibility- Reasonable Costs

The Applicant is responsible for providing documentation to demonstrate that claimed costs are reasonable. FEMA determines reasonable cost by evaluating whether the cost is recognized as necessary for type of work.

For more information, refer to the *Public Assistance Reasonable Cost Evaluation Job Aid.*

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Duplication of Benefits

- FEMA is **prohibited from duplicating benefits** from other sources and will reduce eligible costs accordingly.
- FEMA will not fund any activities or services covered by another Federal agency such as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- **HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has primary authority** to support States or Tribal Governments in response to an infectious disease incident.
- FEMA assistance in response to an infectious disease incident is **coordinated with the CDC.**



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Insurance

FEMA requires Applicants to pursue claims to recover insurance proceeds.

- Some insurance policies and parametric policies may provide coverage under civil authority actions.
- Generally the emergency procurement of supplies nor the establishment of temporary medical facilities is insured loss.
- If claiming clean-up or disinfecting of an insured location then an Applicant must submit a copy of their commercial property insurance policy.
- There are no Obtain and Maintain (O&M) insurance requirements associated with emergency work.





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Non-Federal Cost Share

The assistance FEMA provides through its PA Program is subject to a cost share.

The Federal share is 75% of the eligible costs and 25% Non-Federal cost share.



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Donated Resources

Applicants can use donated resources to offset the non-Federal share of eligible work costs. The Applicant must track all donated resources in order to offset their non-federal cost share.

Donated Resources include:

- Volunteer Labor.
 - ✓ Volunteer responders.
 - ✓ Members of your Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
 - ✓ Amateur radio operators.
- Donated Equipment.
- Donated Supplies and Materials.
- Logistical Support.



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PA Management Costs

Management costs may be claimed for administering and managing PA awards as follows:

- Up to 5% of Applicant's total award amount (based on actual costs).

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to Meetings regarding the PA program or PA claim, preparing correspondence, reviewing Projects, collecting copying, filing, or submitting documents to support a claim, and training.

Additional information is available in FEMA's interim policy, [FEMA Recovery Policy FP 104-11-2, Public Assistance](#)

4/6/2020 [Management Costs](#) and [FEMA's Public Assistance Management Costs Standard Operating Procedures](#)



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Administrative Relief for Applicants of COVID-19 Declarations

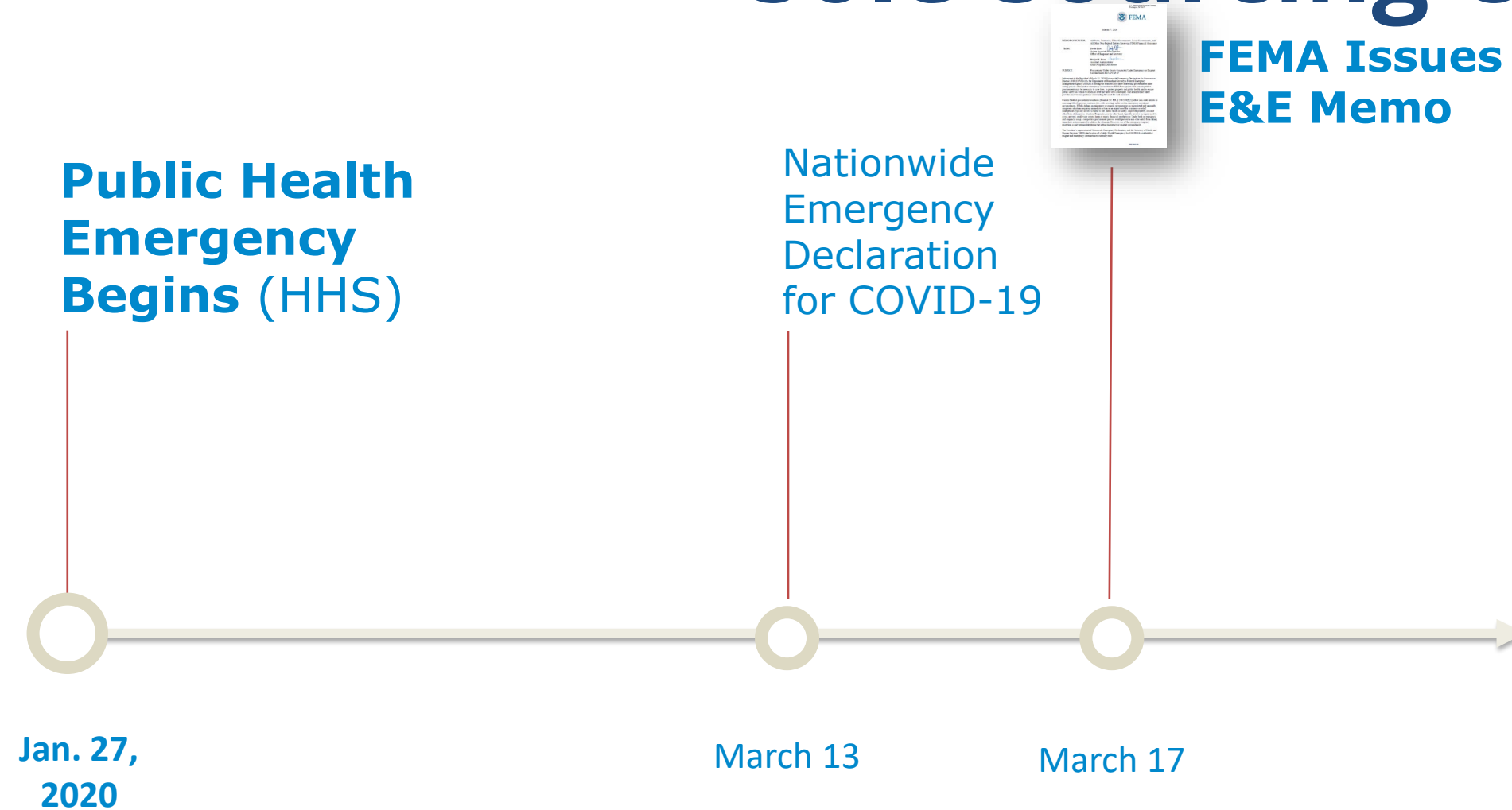




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Sole-Sourcing Under E&E for COVID-19



For the duration of the current federal Public Health Emergency, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic qualifies as an E&E circumstance:

- Non-state entities may sole-source under that exception.
- State entities have to follow their own state procurement rules.

The exception is applicable to contracts entered into or used on or after January 27, 2020

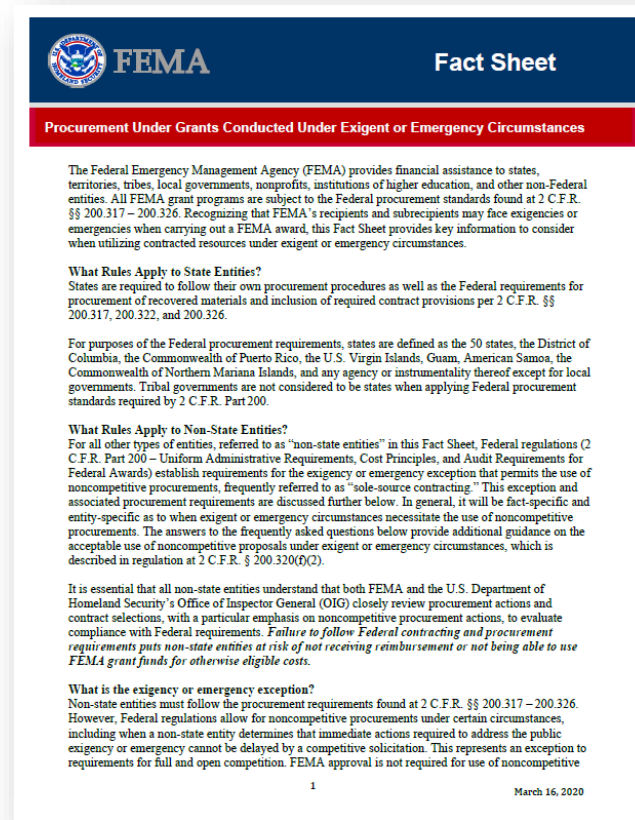


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Procurement Under E&E for COVID-19

FEMA Fact Sheet



March 16, 2020

If sole-sourcing under the E&E exception, non-state entities **MUST**:

- Include required contract clauses.
- Follow Time and Materials (T&M) contract requirements if applicable.
- **NOT** enter into Cost Plus Percentage Cost (CPPC) contracts. They are prohibited!
- Award contract to a responsible contractor.
- Follow documentation, oversight, conflict of interest requirements.

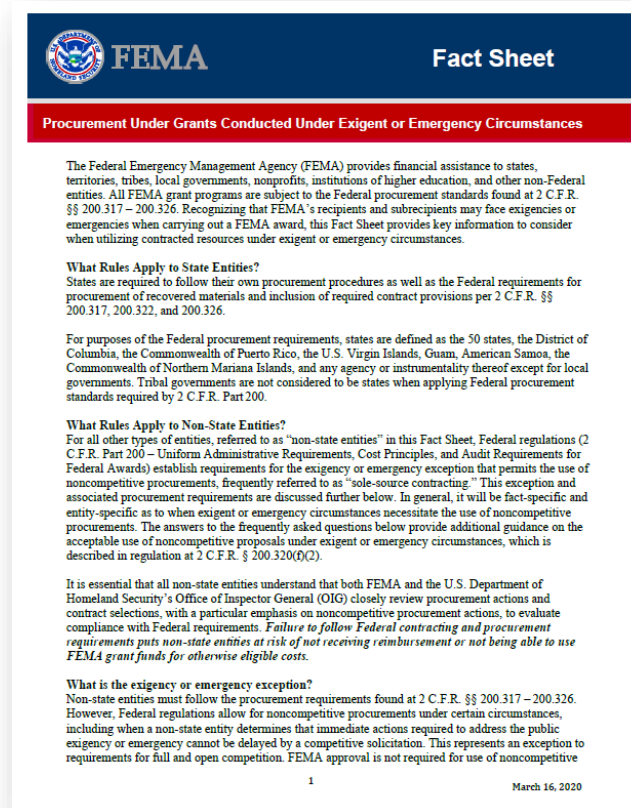


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Procurement Under E&E for COVID-19

FEMA Fact Sheet



March 16, 2020

Considerations for State Entities regardless of E&E circumstances:

- Follow State procurement policies and procedures.
- Follow procurement of recovered materials requirements.
- Include required contract clauses.
- While the rules do not prohibit the use of T&M or CPPC contracts, FEMA discourages states from using them due to likelihood of unreasonable costs.



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Documentation





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Organizational Documents

Once Organization has been approved in Grants Portal:

- Personnel Pay Policy – Overtime.
- Labor/Union Contracts.
- Insurance Policy.



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Project (Grant) Documents

START NOW tracking all COVID-19 activities

- Regular and Overtime hours.
 - ✓ Note which hours are COVID-19 activities.
- Call logs.
- Equipment used on COVID-19 calls (including apparatus).
- Supplies/Materials used (from stock or purchased).

Information may be on the FEMA forms or on the Disaster Response Cost Recovery Excel Workbook or any other means available.



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Documentation and Record Keeping

Stafford Act Section 705 – “Imposes a three (3) year limit on FEMA’s authority to recover payments made to State, Tribal, or local government Recipients and Subrecipients unless there is evidence of fraud.”

- The Applicant must maintain all original documentation supporting project costs claimed.
- The Recipient and the Applicant must keep all financial and program documentation for 3 years after the date of the Recipient’s final Financial Status Report (FSR).
- Records are subject to audit by State auditors, FEMA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office.



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Next Steps





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Next Steps

Access Grants Portal and create account and submit an Request for Proposal (RPA).

If you already have an account, login and submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA).

Other Helpful Resources

- FEMA PA Grants Portal - Grants Manager YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/channel/UCIjp91Ds2IaVIR1t8uXcEKg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjp91Ds2IaVIR1t8uXcEKg)
- Technical and training support at FEMA's PA Grants Portal Hotline: **(866) 337-8448**
- Grants Portal inbox: **FEMA-Recovery-PA-Grants@fema.dhs.gov**



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COVID19 and the Public Safety Officer Benefit Program (PSOB)

The COVID19 crisis is more than just about dollars. It is also taking its toll on our fire and EMS forces.

In the tragic loss of a member the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program (PSOB) may provide assistance.



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PSOB Eligibility



LAW ENFORCEMENT



FIRE



EMS



RESCUE SQUAD



DISASTER RELIEF
WORKER



SUPPORT PERSONNEL



VOLUNTEER OR
CAREER



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PSOB Benefits



SURVIVOR DEATH BENEFIT



PERMANENT DISABILITY
BENEFIT



EDUCATION BENEFIT



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PSOB Claim Chain



Eligible Responder



On Duty



Exposure = Proximal Cause



Leading to death or full disability



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PSOB Claim Chain – Proximal Cause (34 CFR)

...a traumatic physical wound ..., **infectious disease**, radiation, **virus**, or bacteria



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PSOB Claim Requirements

Documentation of Exposure

- When
- Where
- Activities
- PPE used



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PSOB Claim Requirements

Documentation of Illness

- Diagnosis date
- Treatment regimen
- Outcome documentation
 - Death certificate with COD
 - Permanent disability finding



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PSOB Claim Requirements

Agency

- Notice of appointment (demonstrate membership)
- Incident documentation, including assignment
- Notice of Exposure/Injury
- Supporting documentation
 - PPE issued
 - Policies, procedures, and guidelines



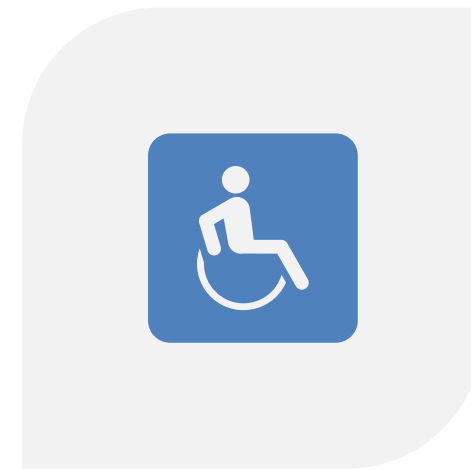
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PSOB COVID19 Guidance Still Being Developed



AUTOPSY REQUIREMENTS



DEATH/DISABILITY DUE TO OTHER CAUSES SECONDARY TO COVID19



DEATH CERTIFICATE AND CAUSATION DOCUMENTATION



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PSOB Additional Resources



**National Fallen Firefighters
Foundation**
<https://www.firehero.org/2020/03/17/covid-19-pandemic-update/>



**List of generally required documents
(PSOB)**
https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/Death_ReqDocs_2018.pdf



PSOB Home Page
<https://psob.bja.ojp.gov/>



To submit questions to the PSOB
1-888-744-6513
AskPSOB@usdoj.gov



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COVID19 – Cost Recovery for Fire and EMS

**With appreciation to the IAFC
and the IAFC COVID19 Task Force for this opportunity.**

Chief Keith Bryant

U.S. Fire Administrator

Deputy Section Chief Star Black

FEMA Public Assistance Training Section

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