

COVID-19 Webinar: After the Emergency: Navigating the FEMA Reimbursement Process

COVID-19 Webinar Series June 9, 2020

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Moderator:

Derek Dolfie *Legislative Representative* League of California Cities

Speakers

Ryan Buras Deputy Director of Recovery

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

John Catching

Program Manager II, FMAG / Disaster Closeouts Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Robert Pesapane

Recovery Division Director Federal Emergency Management Agency

Grace Tebarwa

Public Assistance Specialist Federal Emergency Management Agency

Agenda

- Disaster Overview
- Public Assistance Program
- •Categories of Work
- Public Assistance Eligible
 Applicants



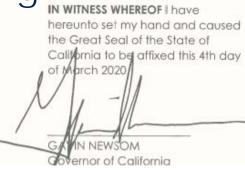
- PA Program Implementation
 Process
- Applicant Responsibilities





Disaster Overview – DR-4482-CA

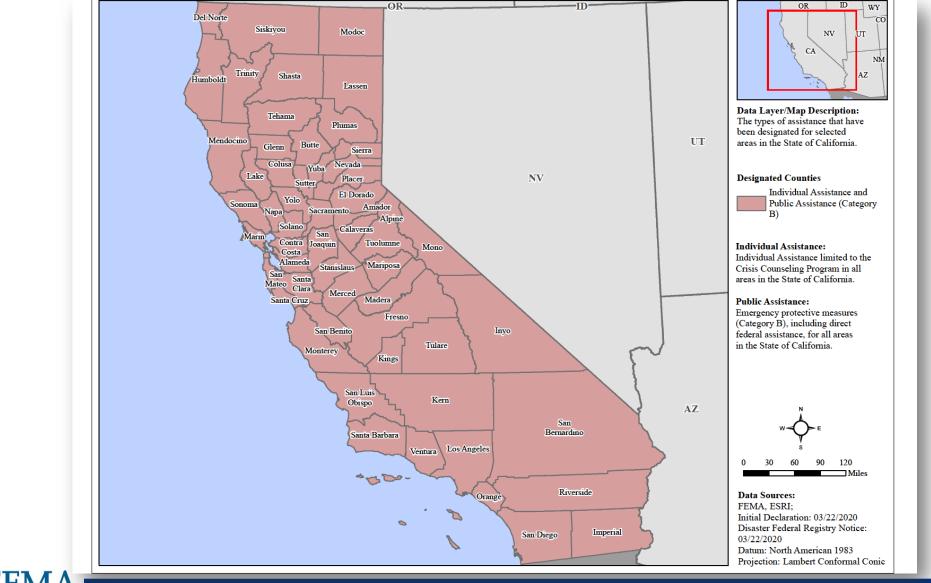
- Governor declared a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020
- President declared disaster March 22, 2020, for the incident period: January 20, 2020, and continuing
- Assistance available: Public Assistance limited to emergency protective measures and direct federal assistance; and Individual Assistance for crisis counseling
- Designated Counties: All California Counties







Disaster Overview Cont. – DR-4482-CA





Public Assistance (PA) Program



Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide

FEMA

• The federal Public Assistance Program provides assistance to government organizations and certain private nonprofit organizations following a Presidential disaster declaration

- Assistance is for emergency protective measures ONLY for this event.
- FEMA covers no less than 75% of the costs





FEMA PA: COVID-19

- FEMA authorized to provide assistance for emergency measures necessary as a result of the pandemic
 - "Category B" for emergency protective measures
 - Authorizes funding for actions to address immediate threats resulting directly from the disaster that are necessary in order to protect public health and safety
 - For COVID-19, these actions should be taken at the direction or guidance of public health officials





FEMA PA: COVID-19

- Includes the following (if not funded by US HHS or another federal agency):
 - Emergency Operations Centers
 - PPE
 - Emergency medical care
 - Treatment of COVID-19 patients
 - Temporary facilities
 - Testing



- Sheltering when necessary to address public health and safety needs
- Purchase and distribution of commodities such as food when necessary to address public health and safety
- Security and law enforcement
- Communication of health and safety information to the public.





FEMA PA: COVID-19

•Grant requirements for PA:

- Legal responsibility: Applicants must have the legal responsibility for the work
- <u>Documentation</u>: Applicants need to provide documentation necessary to support the costs they are claiming
- <u>Federal Acquisition Regulations</u>: Federal procurement regulations are mandatory for federal grant programs, such as PA
- <u>Duplication of benefits</u>: FEMA PA prohibits duplication of benefits from other sources, such as other federal grant programs and insurance
- Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements
- Equal access and delivery of services to people with disabilities
- <u>Cost Share</u>: FEMA PA funding is cost-shared (currently 75% federal/25% non-federal)





California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)

- Currently, CDAA only authorized for the Great Plates Delivered Program (GPD)
 - An emergency feeding program designed to ensure that specified older and high-risk Californians receive restaurant-prepared meals
- Current GPD cost breakdown
 - 75% FEMA PA share
 - 18.75% State CDAA share
 - 6.25% Local share
- All other "Category B" cost breakdown currently
 - 75% FEMA PA share

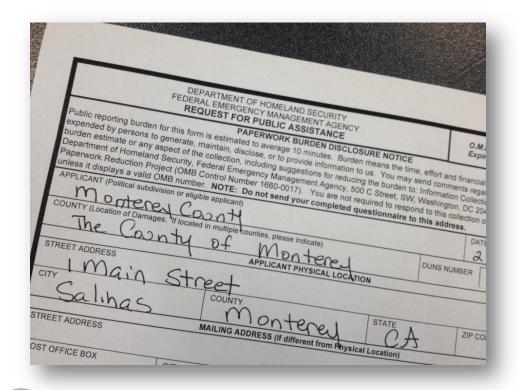






FEMA PA: Application Process

• The FEMA PA Program is administered through State, Tribal and Territorial governments



- State, Territorial and Tribal governments serve as the Recipient of FEMA grant funding
- The Recipient then disburses funding to local governments as sub-recipients
- Applicants such as county governments apply for and receive PA funding through the respective Recipient



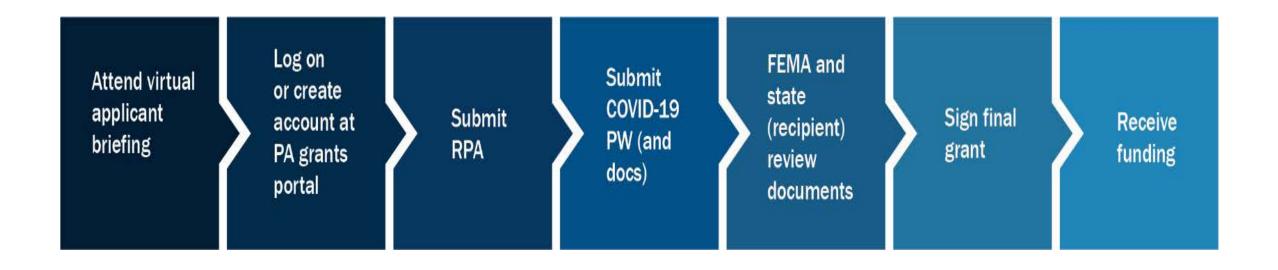
FEMA PA: COVID-19 Streamlined Application Process

- Online information technology tool called the PA Grants Portal (<u>https://grantee.fema.gov/</u>)
 - County governments can set up accounts directly in Grants Portal
 - The first step in the process is submitting an RPA to CA and FEMA through Grants Portal
 - FEMA has also set up a Direct Application process in Grants Portal for COVID-19 project funding
- FEMA's Quick Guides and How-To Videos provide step-by-step instructions and can be found in the Grants Portal
 - For technical assistance with Grants Portal, Applicants can call the Grants Portal hotline at 1-866-337-8448 (questions on PA eligibility should be directed to state and regional contacts)





DR-4482 PA Process







FEMA PA: COVID-19 Specific Issues

- •FEMA has issued PA guidance specifically for the COVID-19 incident:
 - Emergency Protective Measures -- Fact Sheet
 - PNP Eligibility -- Fact Sheet
 - Procurement During Exigent and Emergency Circumstances – Fact Sheet
 - Purchase and Distribution of Food Policy
 - Medical Care Policy in Draft





FEMA PA: COVID-19 Specific Issues

- Duplication of Benefits -- FEMA cannot duplicate funding from another federal agency
- Significant supplemental funding has been provided, including CARES Act
 - Coronavirus Relief Fund (Department of Treasury) \$150B to state, local and tribal governments for COVID-19 costs
 - Medical Care US HHS through ASPR, CDC and CMS over \$100B for medical care funding
 - Block Grants HUD funding for CDBG
 - Food USDA funding for nutrition support
- Some of the forms of this funding and the cost shares are different
- FEMA is working with other federal agencies to coordinate benefits and provide information for state and local governments for decision making





PA Eligible Applicants

Counties Cities Towns School Districts Special Districts Community College Districts

State Agencies Tribal Governments Private Non-Profit Organizations





Applicant Responsibilities

- Submit request for PA (Deadline is currently no later than 30 days after the end of the incident period)
 - Email: <u>DisasterRecovery@CalOES.ca.gov</u>
 - Mail to: Cal OES, Public Assistance

Attn: David Gillings, PAO

3650 Schriever Ave.

Mather, CA 95655

 Identify eligible Emergency Protective Measures and submit costs and details to Cal OES/FEMA within 60 days of the declared end of the National Public Health Emergency





Applicant Responsibilities Cont.

- Ensure all required payment documents are submitted in order to receive funds
- Provide documentation to FEMA and Cal OES for all projects
- Expend grant funds in accordance with grant requirements
- Be accountable to the state for federal funds
- Maintain clear and organized documentation





Updates & Best Practices

- Virtual Applicants' Briefings continuing through May 21, 2020
- All funding forms submitted
- Procurement processes
- Environmental compliance
- Assembly of appropriate cost documentation





Other Helpful Resources

- <u>Federal Public Assistance Program Fact Sheet</u>
- Applicant Briefing Public Assistance Helpful Resources
- <u>Cal OES Recovery COVID-19 Resources and Documents</u>
- FEMA COVID-19 Fact Sheets



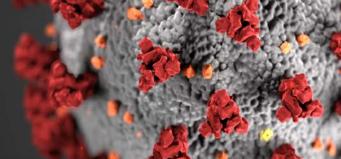


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