City Fiscal Tracking and Federal Reimbursement Initiative

Webinar #4
Thursday, October 22, 2020
1:00PM ET
Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
United States Conference of Mayors
City Fiscal Tracking and Reimbursement Resources

Webinar #1: Recovery Experts
April 7, 2020

Webinar #2: FEMA Officials
May 4, 2020

Webinar #3: CDBG Funds
June 16, 2020

Municipal Resource Guide

Responses to FAQs

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Office of Response and Recovery, FEMA

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Public Assistance Division, FEMA
FEMA: Role in the Pandemic

- Together with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FEMA has co-led collaboration across federal agencies to assist with national and local response and recovery efforts.
- FEMA has already approved more than $54.4 billion in support of COVID-19 response efforts. (As of Oct. 19)
- FEMA is partnering with more than 26,000 government and non-profit applicants to reimburse costs under Public Assistance.
- As with all disasters—but especially important during this pandemic—locally executed, state managed, and federally supported recovery requires state and local officials to drive their financial recovery.
- FEMA remains committed to helping state and local officials navigate federal funding requirements and resources.
Program Overview

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

- The program provides funding for:
  - Emergency assistance to save lives and protect property; and
  - Permanent work for the restoration of eligible disaster-damaged facilities and infrastructure.

- Eligible Applicants:
  - States, U.S. territories, federally-recognized tribal governments, and local governments; and
  - PNP organizations that own or operate a facility that provides essential social services as defined by the Stafford Act and 44 CFR § 206.221(e).
FEMA Public Assistance: Applicant Eligibility for COVID-19

- Since the President’s March 13, 2020, nation-wide emergency declaration under the Stafford Act for the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA has provided a historic level of assistance and is supporting 57 major disasters and 101 emergency designations (including 89 federally recognized tribes).

- FEMA programs authorized
  - Public Assistance Category B – Emergency Protective Measures
  - Direct Federal Assistance

- FEMA actively reviewed current policies in the PA Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG), procedures and program timelines at the start of the pandemic. In order to meet the needs of the pandemic, Recovery developed additional guidance, including 13 COVID-19 interim policies and policy waivers, more than 25 COVID-19 related job aids and 3 pandemic planning guides. (*Note – these numbers cross IA and PA)
FEMA Public Assistance: Applicant Eligibility for COVID-19

- Specific COVID-19 disaster-specific, interim policies issued to support the delivery of Public Assistance:
  - Purchase and Distribution of Food Commodities Interim Policy,
  - Medical Care Cost Interim Policy
  - Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
  - COVID-19 Work Eligible for Public Assistance
    - The most recent interim policy issued was the COVID-19 Work Eligible for Public Assistance – issued on September 1, with effective date of September 15.
    - Under this policy and effective September 15, 2020, FEMA is continuing to provide assistance for emergency protective measures in response to COVID-19 declared events
FEMA guidance on eligibility for Public Assistance funding can be found in the following locations:

- Refer Ch. 2 for “Public Assistance Policy” in version 3.1 of the FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide
  - Applies to all emergencies and major disasters declared from August 23, 2017 through May 31, 2020

- For COVID-19 facts sheets and guidance, visit https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/fact-sheets
Delivery Process

Direct Application, Current Status, Best Practices
FEMA Public Assistance: Streamlined Application Process

- Virtual Applicant Briefings have been held by the Recipients (State, tribal and territorial governments)
- Applicants can set up accounts with FEMA and submit Requests for Public Assistance (RPA) directly through Public Assistance Grants Portal (https://grantee.fema.gov/)
  - 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
FEMA Public Assistance: Streamlined Application Process

- Applicants submit their requests for Public Assistance funding directly in the Grants Portal through COVID-19 Project Worksheets
  - After an Applicant establishes an account and has their Request for Public Assistance approved, they submit an Impact Survey:
    - Captures detailed, specific information about incident-related impacts
FEMA Public Assistance: Important Deadlines

- For COVID-19, FEMA extended the 30-day deadline for applicants to submit their RPA (final deadline will be determined based on the pandemic incident)

- For COVID-19, FEMA adjusted the 60-day deadline to identify and report damages (final deadline will be determined based on the pandemic incident)

- During Scoping and Costing
  - FEMA reviews supporting documentation
  - FEMA sends Request for Information, as necessary

- Work completion dates will be determined based on the pandemic incident
COVID-19: By the Numbers

- RPAs received – Over 26K
- Total projects pending – Over 11K
- PA Obligated – $6B
  - 1,491 Projects
  - Over 23K Eligible Applicants
- Average Days in RFI = 17
- Average Days in Process = 48
  - Phase 2 - Impact Survey: 16
  - Phase 3 - Scoping & Costing: 21
  - Phase 4 - Final Reviews: 9

* As of October 2020
FEMA Public Assistance: Best Practices for Applicants

Applicants must...

- **Follow Federal Acquisition Regulations:** This is mandatory when spending any federal funding
  - The fact sheet, “Procurement Under Grants: Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances” guides state and non-state entities for addressing noncompetitive procurements that may be necessary to save lives, to protect property and public health, and to ensure public safety

- **Provide all necessary documentation:** This impacts the speed of the application process to obligation

- **Demonstrate legal responsibility:** This impacts the eligibility of a facility or jurisdiction and the work receiving Public Assistance funds

- **Avoid duplication of benefits:** FEMA policy explicitly prohibits funding activities/costs that have been or will be claimed from another source
Federal Resources
COVID-19 Support and Next Steps
FEMA Public Assistance: Whole of Government Response

- FEMA is part of a Whole of America and Whole of Community response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- There is currently more than $3 trillion in supplemental COVID-19 funding available.
  - This includes federal partners such as the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury. These and other federal partners are providing support to address public health needs of teachers and students, facility modifications and other critical needs.
- FEMA has worked closely with federal interagency partners to create resource guides to help our partners better understand and maximize available COVID-19 federal resources.
FEMA recently published a searchable interagency supplemental resource guide and three COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps for Education, Food and Nutrition, Housing, and Economic Recovery. These resources I’ve mentioned can be found on FEMA.gov:

- [COVID-19 Resource Summary Report](#)
- [COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps](#)
- [Supplemental searchable tool](#) on fema.gov

A Health Care roadmap is also under development.
FEMA Public Assistance: For More Information

- Questions?
  - Recipients should contact their FEMA Regional Office at fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts
  - Applicants should contact their State Emergency Management Agency also located at fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies
    - Each Applicant in COVID-19 is provided a Point of Contact in Grants Portal
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEMA
FEMA Public Assistance: COVID-19 Specific Guidance


FEMA Public Assistance: COVID-19 Specific Guidance (continued)


Nielsen Leon
Program Specialist, Procurement Disaster Assistance
Grant Programs Directorate, FEMA
Critical Tips for Purchasing Under a FEMA Award

Nielsen Leon
FEMA Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT)
October 22, 2020
Procurement Non-Compliance Is Costly

$806,000,000 = Ineligible contract costs due to non-compliance with procurement requirements

OIG audit reports issued in FY 2010-2017

69% of the negative findings resulted in recommendations to take the funds back

Number of Negative Procurement Audit Findings FY 2010-2017

- Full and Open Competition
- Affirmative Steps
- Cost/Price Analysis
- T+M Contract Requirements
- Cost Plus Percentage of Cost
- Maintain Sufficient Records
- Maintain Oversight
- Award to Responsible Contractors
- Maintain Written Code of Conduct
Kickoff: Uniform Rules

2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 326

317 Procurements by States
318 General Procurement Standards
319 Competition
320 Procurement Methods
321 Socioeconomic Contracting
322 Recovered Materials
323 Contract Cost or Price
324 Review of Procurements
325 Bonding Requirements
326 Contract Provisions

Objectives

Reasonable Cost

Other Policy Goals
Top Procurement under Grant Mistakes
Restricting Full and Open Competition

- All qualified and responsible sources are eligible to compete without restrictions
- Goal: cast net broadly to reach fair & reasonable price from the most qualified contractor
- Examples of restricting competition:
  - Requiring unnecessary experience
  - Excessive bonding requirements
  - Using brand names
  - Non-competitive contract to contractors on retainer
  - Use of geographic preferences
Not Including the Required Contract Clauses

- Applicability depends on type of work, type of contract, entity type, and dollar amount
- 8 required contract provisions
- 6 recommended contract provisions
Not Awarding to Responsible Contractors

- Must only award contracts to responsible contractors:
  - Able to perform successfully under terms and conditions
  - Evidence of integrity
  - Compliant w/ public policy
  - Good past performance
  - Adequate financial and technical resources

- Contractor must NOT appear on the government wide exclusions list for suspension and debarment

www.sam.gov
Must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of the procurement:

- Rationale for the Method of Procurement
- Selection of Contract Type
- Selection of Contractor
- Basis for Contract Price
Tools & Resources
Tools and Resources

- PDAT Website: [fema.gov/grants/procurement](http://fema.gov/grants/procurement)
  Videos, Comprehensive Resources, and Checklists

- Contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498 or [askcsid@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:askcsid@fema.dhs.gov)


- Contact Your FEMA Regional Office [www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts](http://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts)
Thank you for your participation!
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CEO and Executive Director
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Thank you for attending.

Please take a moment and complete a brief feedback survey.

Click the link in the chat window.