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**COVID-19  
LOCAL  
RESPONSE  
INITIATIVE**



**THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

# **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



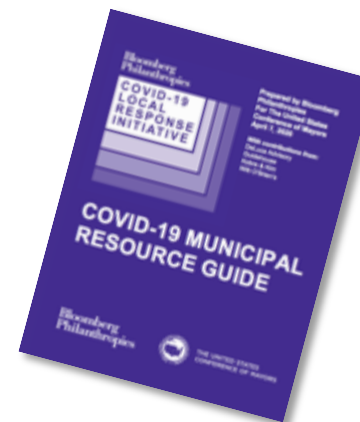
**Webinar #1:  
Recovery Experts**  
April 7, 2020



**Webinar #2:  
FEMA Officials**  
May 4, 2020



**Webinar #3:  
CDBG Funds**  
June 16, 2020



**Municipal  
Resource Guide**



**Responses  
to FAQs**

<https://www.usmayors.org/issues/covid-19/city-fiscal-tracking-and-reimbursement/>



# Keith Turi

Assistant Administrator, Recovery  
**Office of Response and Recovery, FEMA**

# Tod Wells

Deputy Division Director  
**Public Assistance Division, FEMA**



# Public Assistance Guidance for COVID-19

FEMA Public Assistance | October 22, 2020



FEMA

# FEMA: Role in the Pandemic

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- 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.



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Nantucket, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats and a dense forest of green trees surrounding the built-up areas. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

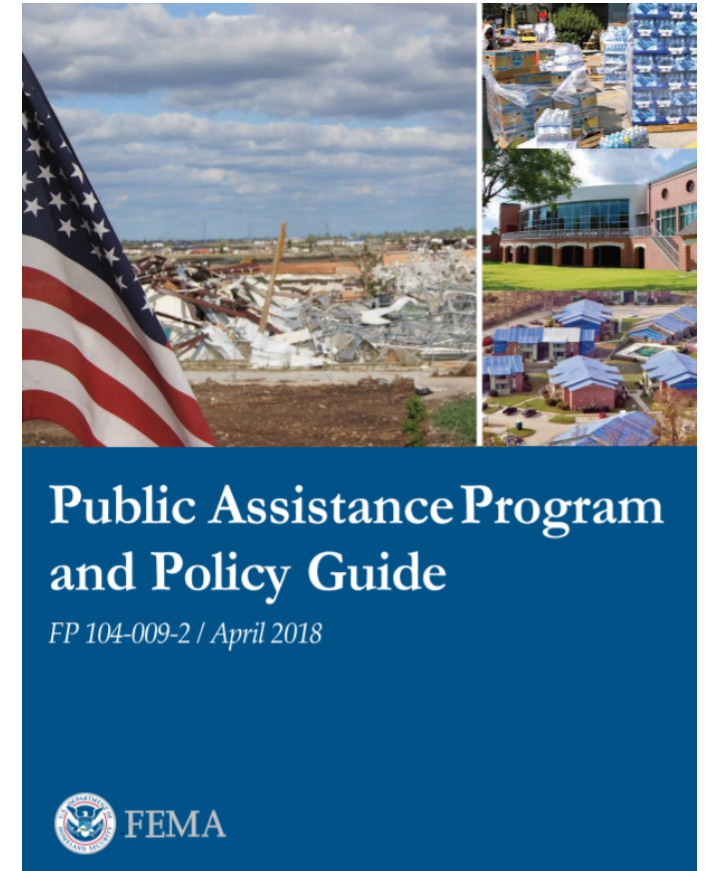
# Program Overview

Eligibility, Policy and Specific Guidance

# FEMA Public Assistance: Overview (Non-COVID PA)

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- 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

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- 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

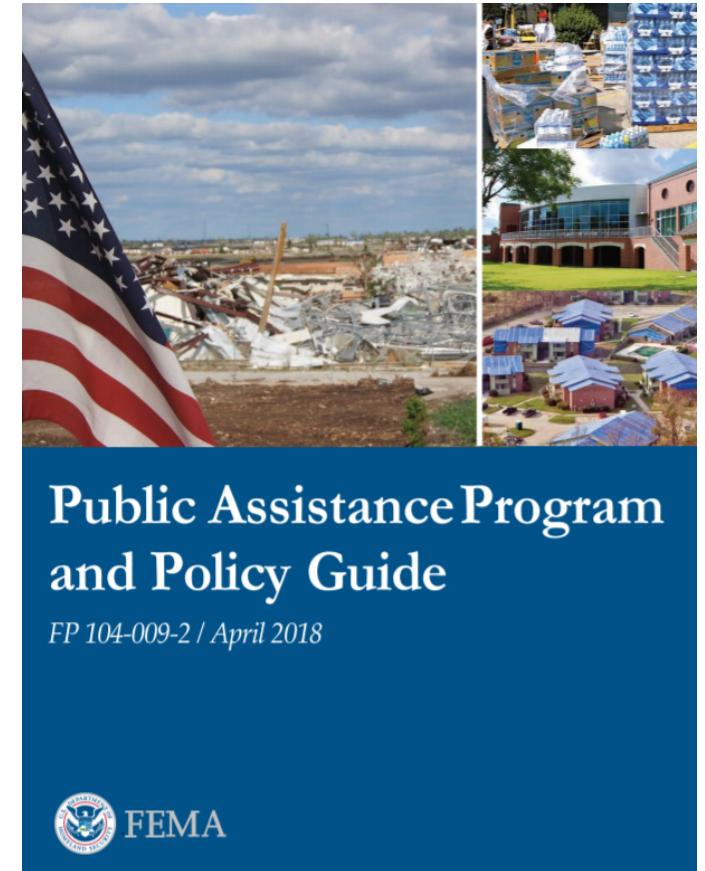
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- Specific COVID-19 disaster-specific, interim policies issued to support the delivery Public Assistance:
  - Purchase and Distribution of Food Commodities Interim Policy,
  - Medical Care Cost Interim Policy
  - Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering 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 Public Assistance: Policy and Guidance for COVID-19

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- 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/factsheets>



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Nantucket, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats and a dense forest of green trees surrounding the buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# 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

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- 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
- Public Assistance Simplified Application: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/23/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-public-assistance-simplified-application>

# FEMA Public Assistance: Important Deadlines

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- 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

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## 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

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in New England, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats and a dense forest of green trees surrounding the built-up area. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# Federal Resources

COVID-19 Support and Next Steps

# FEMA Public Assistance: Whole of Government Response

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- 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 Public Assistance: Interagency Coordination

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- 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](https://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts) at [fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts](https://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts)
  - Applicants should contact their [State Emergency Management Agency](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies) also located at [fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies)
    - Each Applicant in COVID-19 is provided a Point of Contact in Grants Portal
  - FEMA COVID-19 Response site <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>





FEMA

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in New England, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats and a dense forest of green trees surrounding the built-up area. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# Appendix

Disaster Specific Guidance for COVID-19



# FEMA Public Assistance: COVID-19 Specific Guidance

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- Interim Policy for PA Eligibility [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/fema\\_policy\\_104-009-19\\_PA-eligibility-policy-covid.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/fema_policy_104-009-19_PA-eligibility-policy-covid.pdf)
- Evacuation and Sheltering Assistance: <https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/evacuation-sheltering-assistance-under-emergency-declaration-covid-19-environment>
- Coordinating Public Assistance and Other Sources of Federal Funding [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/FEMA-COVID-19\\_coordinating-public-assistance-and-other-sources-of-federal-funding\\_07-01-2020.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/FEMA-COVID-19_coordinating-public-assistance-and-other-sources-of-federal-funding_07-01-2020.pdf)
- Waiver of Private Nonprofit Primary Use and Primary Ownership Facility Policies [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema\\_pnp-mixed-facility-waiver\\_070120\\_memo.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_pnp-mixed-facility-waiver_070120_memo.pdf)
- Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/PA\\_Medical\\_Care\\_Policy\\_for\\_COVID-19\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/PA_Medical_Care_Policy_for_COVID-19_508.pdf)
- Eligible Emergency Protective Measures: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/19/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-eligible-emergency-protective-measures> (applicable for work performed prior to 9/15/20)
- Emergency Medical Care: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/31/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-emergency-medical-care>



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

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- **Private Nonprofit Organizations:** <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/02/coronavirus-covid19-pandemic-private-nonprofit-organizations>
- **FEMA Assistance for Tribal Governments:** <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/26/coronavirus-covid-19-fema-assistance-tribal-governments>
- **Procurement Under Grants: Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances:** <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/20/procurement-under-grants-under-exigent-or-emergency-circumstances>
- **Non-Congregate Sheltering:** <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/31/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-non-congregate-sheltering>
- **FEMA Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering:** [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/fema\\_public-assistance-non-covid-19-ncs\\_policy\\_09-21-2020.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/fema_public-assistance-non-covid-19-ncs_policy_09-21-2020.pdf)
- **Purchase and Distribution of Food Eligible for Public Assistance:** <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/12/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-purchase-and-distribution-food-eligible-public>

# 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



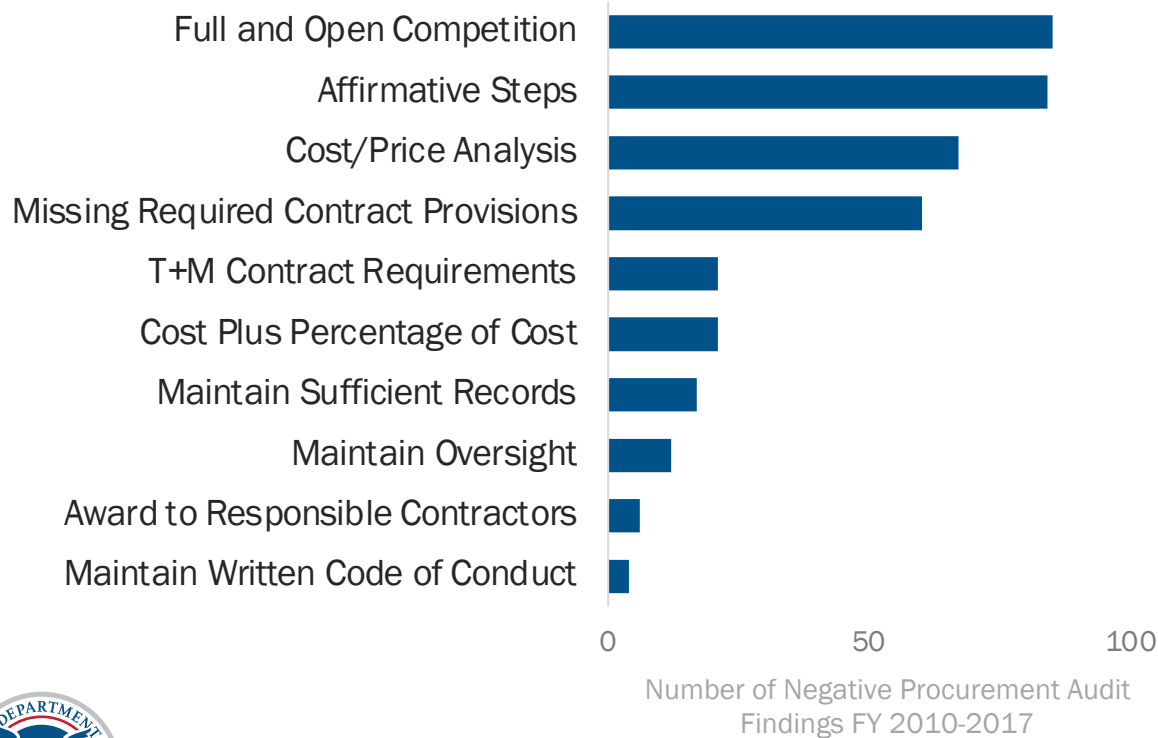
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# Procurement Non-Compliance Is Costly

**\$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



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# 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



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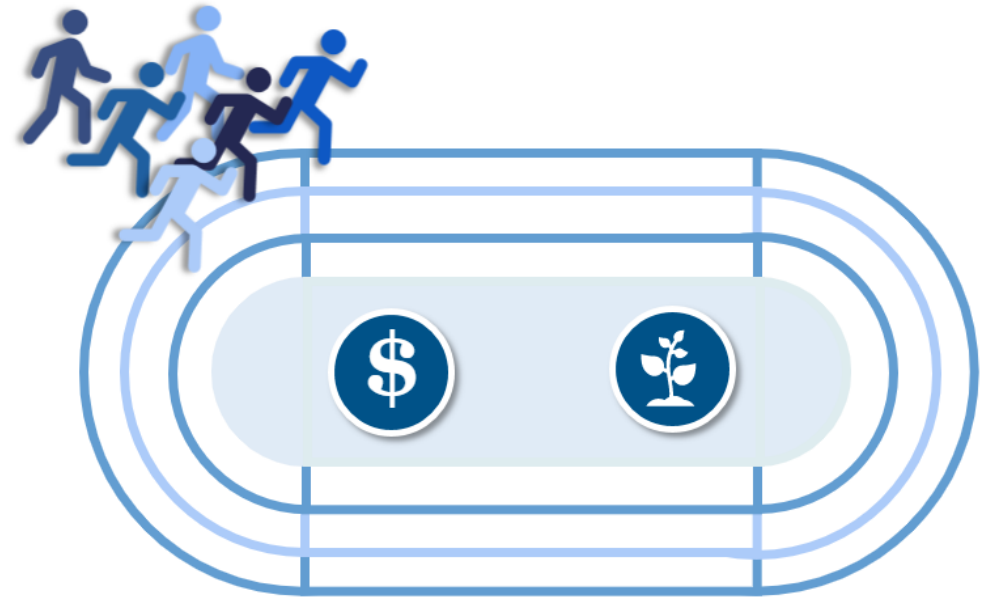


# Top Procurement under Grant Mistakes



# 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

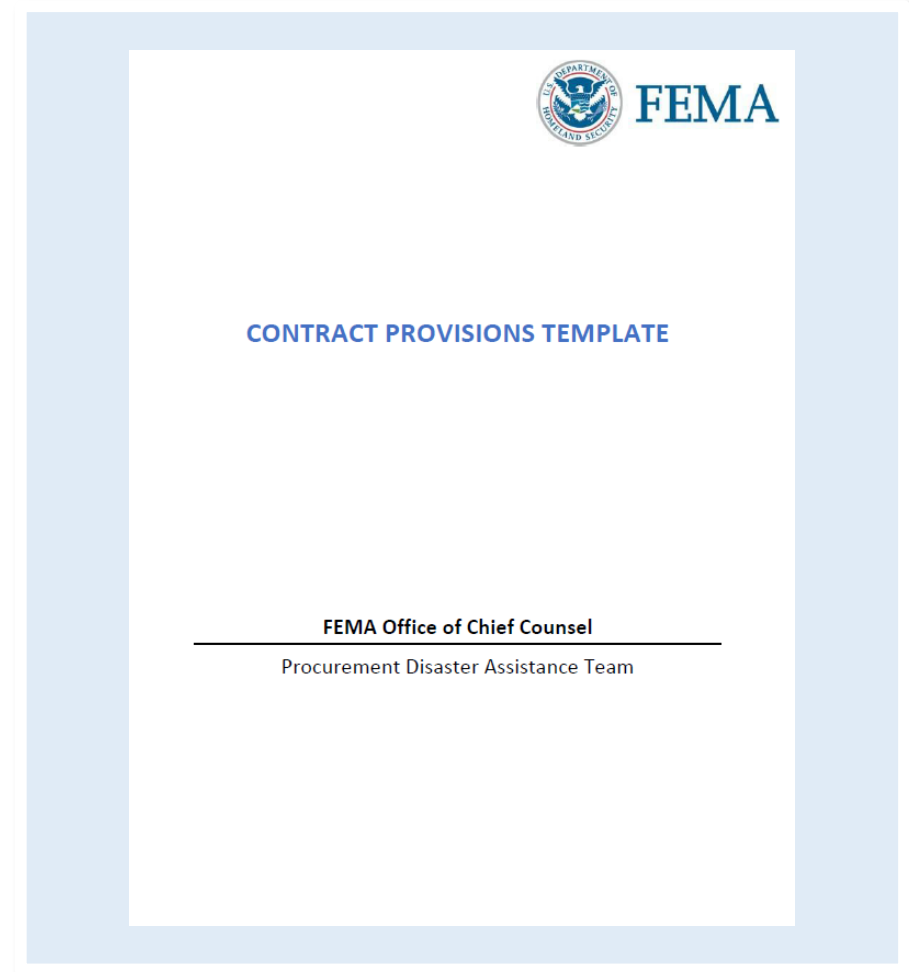


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# Not Including the Required Contract Clauses

- Applicability depends on type of work, type of contract, entity type, and dollar amount
- 8 required contract provisions
- 6 recommended contract provisions



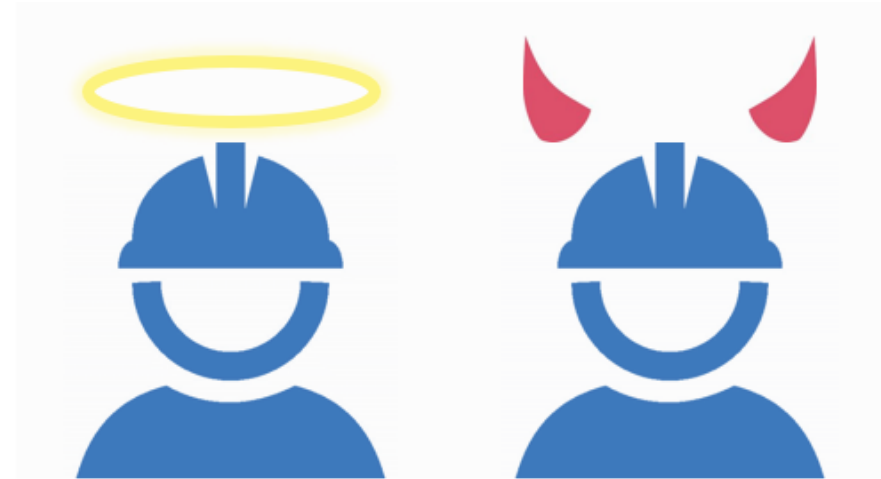
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## Not Awarding to Responsible Contractors

- 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](http://www.sam.gov)



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## Not Documenting Procurement History

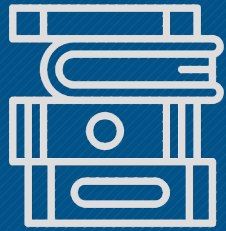
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Must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of the procurement:

- Rationale for the Method of Procurement
- Selection of Contract Type
- Selection of Contractor
- Basis for Contract Price



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## Tools & Resources

# Tools and Resources

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- PDAT Website: [fema.gov/grants/procurement](https://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 State Emergency Management Agency  
[www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies)
- Contact Your FEMA Regional Office  
[www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts](https://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts)



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Thank you for your participation!



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# Q&A

**Rose Gill and Adam Freed**  
Bloomberg Philanthropies



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**United States Conference of Mayors**



# City Fiscal Tracking and Reimbursement Resources



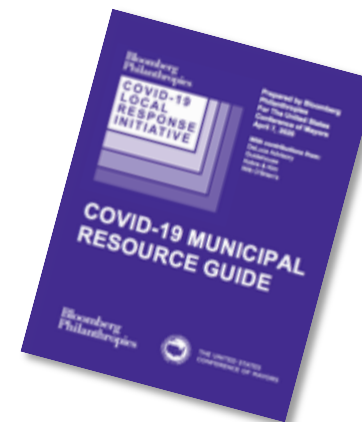
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**Please take a moment and  
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**Click the link in the chat window.**

