

TALKING POINTS

FEMA Support Under Emergency Declaration for COVID-19

KEY MESSAGES

- The federal government continues to take aggressive and proactive steps to address the COVID-19 threat as the health and safety of the American people remain a top priority.
- Today, President Trump took decisive, unprecedented action by declaring a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501(b) of Stafford Act. The President's action cuts red tape and bureaucracy and avoids Governors needing to request individual emergency declarations.
- This increases federal support to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in its role as the lead federal agency for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. FEMA actions will be taken in support of HHS and in coordination with state, tribal and territorial governments.
- Pursuant to this declaration, FEMA, in direct coordination with HHS, will assist state, local, tribal, territorial governments and other eligible entities with the health and safety actions they take on behalf of the American public.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE?

- In accordance with this declaration, States would need to submit requests for additional assistance beyond the types originally designated.
- This declaration does not authorize direct financial assistance available to individuals.
 - This declaration does not include Disaster Unemployment Assistance or Other Needs Assistance, or other types of assistance beyond those identified above.
- Eligible emergency protective measures taken at the direction or guidance of public health officials in response to this emergency, and not supported by the authorities of another federal agency, will be reimbursed strictly under the FEMA Public Assistance program.
- FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent Federal cost share.
- Reimbursable activities typically include emergency protective measures such as the activation of State Emergency Operations Centers, National Guard costs, law enforcement and other measures necessary to protect public health and safety.



FEMA

HOW WILL IT WORK?

- FEMA assistance will require execution of a FEMA-State/Tribal/Territory Agreement, as appropriate, and execution of an applicable emergency plan. States, tribal and territorial governments do not need to request separate emergency declarations to receive FEMA assistance under this nationwide declaration.
- FEMA Regional Administrators will coordinate with Governors to execute a FEMA-State Agreement in support of COVID-19 response activities, and states^{1,2} do not need to request separate emergency declarations. States are encouraged to activate their emergency operations centers (EOCs) if not already activated.

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¹ As defined in Robert T. Stafford Act, Section 102 “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

² As a nationwide emergency declaration, Tribal governments are covered as eligible applicants. Tribal Authorities may request to serve as direct recipients through their Regional Administrator.