

Declaration Criteria for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Recovery Assistance

National Emergency Declaration

- All state, local, tribal and territorial governments are eligible for emergency protective measures assistance under President Trump's March 13, 2020, Nationwide Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.
- FEMA encourages state, local, tribal and territorial entities to take appropriate action to protect life and reduce risk. FEMA anticipates the majority of health and safety actions taken by state, local, tribal and territorial governments actions to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may be reimbursed through FEMA's Public Assistance program through Category B emergency protective measures if not supported by the authorities of another federal agency. Reimbursement determinations will be coordinated by HHS and FEMA.
- 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. Additional information on eligible emergency protective measures are outlined in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures fact sheet](#) available on [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).
- The emergency declaration does not authorize direct financial assistance available to individuals, such as Disaster Unemployment Assistance or Other Needs Assistance, or other types of assistance beyond those identified above.
- Congress recently passed, and the President signed, legislation providing additional assistance to those impacted by COVID-19 which provides additional assistance to address needs and impacts of the pandemic. Additional proposals are being considered for potential future legislation. State, local, tribal and territorial governments should consider the full range of options that may be available to address COVID-19 related needs.

Requests for Major Disaster Declaration

- State, local, tribal and territorial entities seeking additional assistance by requesting a major disaster declaration should demonstrate and document a specific need beyond what is already supported under the national emergency declaration. This includes specific information for the programs that may be available under a major disaster declaration.



FEMA

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

- COVID-19 and the associated community mitigation measures, to include social distancing and business closures, is impacting the ability for individuals to work and in some areas could result in an increase in unemployment.
- Congress recently passed, and the President signed, legislation providing additional assistance to those impacted by COVID-19; these approaches can address the impacts of COVID-19 in a more comprehensive way than the current design of the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program.
- In cases where a state can provide documentation that individuals are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, assistance under DUA could be considered. Criteria for eligibility for DUA includes:
 - Unemployment (i.e., state of being unemployed) as a result of a major disaster
 - Individuals are not entitled to unemployment compensation under other means including traditional unemployment insurance
 - Assistance may not exceed 26 weeks
 - Assistance may not exceed maximum weekly amount authorized under employment law within the relevant state
 - Eligibility for DUA is determined on an individual basis.
- States requesting DUA should provide documentation on:
 - Mandatory closure orders due to health and safety concerns for large industries and employment bases such as schools; food and beverage services; travel services; and entertainment services located within the state. Information provided should include best estimates of impacted employment counts.
 - Closure or layoff notices attributed to COVID-19 for specific employers with significant employment counts within the state.
 - General assessments of the impact of reduced economic activity on the employment conditions for small and medium sized businesses.
 - Data indicating increased need for assistance as expressed through calls, inquiries, or other contacts to state unemployment or workforce agencies.

Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP)

- The circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and the associated community mitigation measures may result in the need for crisis counseling assistance and training in some locations.
- However, the typical approach to providing these services, which includes in-person, door-to-door contacts, is likely not feasible in the current environment. Additionally, in some areas the scope and scale of the impacted population may make traditional implementation infeasible.
- States, tribes, and territories should consider the capacity of local entities and potential alternate methods to deliver crisis counseling and training services in a COVID-19 environment.
- States, tribes, or territories requesting the Crisis Counseling Program should provide documentation on:

- Mandatory closure orders due to health and safety concerns for foundational parts of daily life such as schools; places of employment; and/or social service networks located within the state, territory or tribe.
- Data demonstrating increased or heightened needs for spiritual and emotional care, such as phone and other contact to existing mental health resources; inquiries and requests for assistance to medical and mental health providers; and an increase in the documented cases of self-inflicted harm; and
- An articulation of how supplemental federal assistance can enable the state, tribe, or territory to better meet the mental health needs of their residents impacted directly or indirectly by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster Legal Services (DLS)

- States, territories and tribes can request Disaster Legal Services consistent with typical disaster declaration requests. The state, territory or tribe should articulate the legal needs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

- The Individuals and Households Program generally addresses physical damage to primary residences, disaster-caused displacement and damage to personal property. These conditions do not exist in the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and generally the type of assistance provided through the program is not applicable.
- Additionally, the scope and scale of individuals impacted by the pandemic make the standard delivery mechanism of FEMA taking registrations and processing applications for assistance infeasible.
- If a state, tribe or territory chooses to request assistance through the IHP they must also consider what alternate methods of delivering or obtaining that assistance may be available and feasible.
- States, tribes or territories requesting assistance through the Individuals and Households Program must identify a specific COVID-19 related need beyond what can be provided through other available types of assistance. Documentation that could be considered includes:
 - Resource availability to include the availability of resources from other federal agencies, state, tribal, territorial and local governments as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector.
 - Scope and scale of specifically identified needs and reason why other available programs or assistance aren't available.
 - Possible alternate method of delivery that may be available or feasible.

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (DSNAP)

- DSNAP can be requested for any Individual Assistance declaration. The decision to activate DSNAP resides with the US Department of Agriculture. Additional food and feeding resources are available for the public and those impacted by COVID-19 on [USA.Gov](https://www.usda.gov). That includes how individuals can register for traditional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and other non-profit organizations feeding programs.

Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)

- Emergency non-congregate sheltering activities are eligible and needs can be addressed under Category B emergency protective measures.

- The traditional implementation of the Transitional Sheltering Assistance program is not feasible nor applicable.

Public Assistance – Debris removal (Category A)

- Disposal of refuse from health/medical actions are eligible under Category B emergency protective measures. FEMA does not anticipate any COVID-19 related needs that would warrant approval of Category A debris removal assistance.