COVID-19 Category B Public Assistance for Governmental Entities

Emergency protective measures conducted before, during, and after an event are eligible under Public Assistance as Category B expenses if the measures eliminate or lessen immediate threats to lives, public health, or safety.

Examples of Eligible Activities

- Transporting and pre-positioning equipment and other resources for response
  - Costs related to pre-positioning resources specifically for the declared incident are eligible if the resources are used in the performance of eligible Emergency Work.
- Emergency Operation Center (EOC)-related costs
  - Increased utility costs
  - Costs to lease a facility
  - Meal costs
  - Supply costs, Sanitization Costs
- Emergency access
- Supplies and commodities
- Medical care and transport
- Evacuation and sheltering, including that provided by another State or Tribal government

- Childcare**
- Safety inspections
- Security, such as barricades, fencing, or law enforcement
- Use or lease of temporary generators for facilities that provide essential community services
- Dissemination of information to the public to provide warnings and guidance about health and safety hazards using various strategies, such as flyers, public service announcements, or newspaper campaigns

** FDEM is requesting disaster-specific guidance for child care eligibility and costs from FEMA.

Ineligible Costs

Costs that are Eligible Under Other Federal Awards - FEMA is legally prohibited from duplicating benefits from other sources, such as from insurance or other federal awards. Public Assistance is funding of last resort. If the Applicant receives funding from another source for the same work that FEMA funded, FEMA reduces the eligible cost or de-obligates funding to prevent a duplication of benefits.

In addition to FEMA’s Public Assistance Program, there have been other federal programs authorized to provide assistance to states to address the COVID-19 outbreak. These non-FEMA sources include $8.8 billion to the CDC for preparedness and response activities. A Notice of Funding Availability is expected soon pursuant to this appropriation and the Florida Department of Health (DOH) will develop a spend plan to outline costs eligible for funding through the CDC. Typically when this type of funding is allocated, it is generally with the focus of Public Health for things like Epidemiology, surveillance, monitoring travelers, laboratory capacity, testing surge, case identification, lab equipment supplies and shipping, etc. Essentially for ramped up functions of the Public Health Departments (in this case the Florida Department of Health) so they can deal with the surge. FEMA’s duplication of benefits guidance requires that eligible activities funded through other federal sources should be claimed through those other programs, so long as funding is available.