



FAQ: COVID19 Emergency Disaster Declaration

On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a Nationwide Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is an unprecedented action in the FEMA Public Assistance Program. At this time, there are still many questions about what will be reimbursable under this program, but the Public Assistance Staff at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) are committed to assisting all local governments and eligible private non-profits in applying for reimbursement from FEMA for eligible costs incurred during the response of and recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Questions and Answers

What Dates are Eligible for Reimbursement?

The Emergency Declaration for NH (FEMA-3445-EM-NH) was declared on March 13, 2020 and is valid for an incident period from January 20, 2020 and continuing. The end date of the incident period will be defined at a later date.

How is this Emergency Declaration Different from a Major Disaster?

Most natural disasters in NH result in a Major Disaster Declaration which opens up Public Assistance (PA) funding for Category A-G work. This particular Emergency Declaration is unique because it was granted to all states by The President without any state having to make a request first. Additionally, it only authorizes Category B work at this time, which includes Emergency Protective Measures (explained in more detail below).

When Do I Need to Submit My Request for Public Assistance (RPA)?

Due to the unprecedented nature of the national emergency declaration, all Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs) are extended and will remain open for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, as declared by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, unless an earlier deadline is deemed appropriate by FEMA's Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate. At that time, the Regional Administrator, pursuant to 44 CFR 206.202(f)(2), may extend the time limitations in 44 CFR 206.206(c) and (d).

The State of New Hampshire is monitoring this deadline and will be notifying Applicants when action is required.

When Will Applicant Briefings Be Held?

Applicant briefings will be held virtually at a later date to be determined/announced.

Who is Eligible?

Under Public Assistance (PA) Program, eligible entities include local governments, school districts, state agencies, local public authorities, private non-profits that provide a critical service (education, utility,

emergency, or medical services), and select private non-profits that provide a non-critical, but essential service that is available to the general public (certain additional criteria must be met).

See the Public Assistance “Eligible Applicants March 2020” and “Private Non-Profit (PNP) Facility Questionnaire” guidance document.

What is Eligible?

NOTE: FEMA will not duplicate assistance provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or other federal agencies.

Eligible work, materials, and activities are still being defined by FEMA (as some actions taken during this particular response and recovery effort will be covered by the Federal Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHS)), but FEMA has released the below list of eligible work. This list is not all inclusive and we understand that a lot of questions still remain to be asked about the information shown below. We welcome your questions and will forward them to FEMA for more information.

Additional guidance on the language below will be provided by FEMA at a later date.

Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety:

- Emergency Operation Center costs
- Training specific to the declared event
- Disinfection of eligible public facilities (where eligible public facility is defined by FEMA as a building, works, system or equipment, built or manufactured, or an improved natural feature—See pages 14-18 of the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#) for more information)
- Technical assistance to state, tribal, territorial or local governments on emergency management and control of immediate threats to public health and safety

Emergency medical care:

- Non-deferrable medical treatment of infected persons in a shelter or temporary medical facility
- Related medical facility services and supplies
- Temporary medical facilities and/or enhanced medical/hospital capacity (for treatment when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near term and cannot accommodate the patient load or to quarantine potentially infected persons)
- Use of specialized medical equipment
- Medical waste disposal
- Emergency medical transport

Medical sheltering (e.g. when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near future and cannot accommodate needs)

- All sheltering must be conducted in accordance with standards and/or guidance approved by HHS/CDC and must be implemented in a manner that incorporates social distancing measures
- Non-congregate medical sheltering is subject to prior approval by FEMA and is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the public health needs of the event, is pursuant to the

direction of appropriate public health officials and does not extend beyond the duration of the Public Health Emergency

- Household pet sheltering and containment actions related to household pets in accordance with CDC guidelines
- Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine, and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous material suits
- Movement of supplies and persons
- Security and law enforcement
- Communications of general health and safety information to the public
- Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance
- Reimbursement for state, tribe, territory and/or local government force account overtime costs

Is Funding Available for Small Businesses and Non-Eligible Private Non-Profits?

Eligible private non-profits (PNP) may apply for funding under the PA Program. Small businesses and PNPs that are not eligible under the PA Program may apply for a loan through the Small Business Administration (SBA) for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

Eligibility for Economic Injury Disaster Loans is based on the financial impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses. The interest rate for private non-profit organizations is 2.75 percent. SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.