

# COVID-19 Eligible Expenses What's Covered by FEMA

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On March 13, 2020, the president issued an emergency declaration under the **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act** in response to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As a result, states and emergency response agencies are now faced with trying to navigate the complex rules and requirements associated with the emergency assistance they are receiving and for which they may be eligible.

Federal assistance in the wake of disasters is coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security that is subject to the federal grant regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including procurement requirements. Under the Public Assistance (PA) Program, FEMA provides supplemental aid to states, communities, and certain private nonprofit organizations (PNPs) to help them recover from disasters as quickly as possible.

Federal and state guidance is evolving every day and may vary by state. Until we know more, the list below summarizes some of the critical and applicable measures that are covered by FEMA for this declared disaster. While this list is not exhaustive and the rules are still being formulated, it is prudent for state and local governments to begin to track their costs in these areas. Additional resources can be found in the table on the next page.

FEMA's declaration sheet states that eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed under Category B of the agency's Public Assistance program.

## FEMA Public Assistance (Category B - Emergency Protective Measures)

- I. Management control and reduction of immediate threats to public safety:
  - Emergency Operations Center (EOC) costs
  - Trainings specific to the declared event
  - Disinfection of eligible public facilities
  - Technical assistance to state, tribal, territorial, or local governments on emergency and management and control of immediate threats to public health and safety
- II. Emergency medical care
  - Non-deferrable medical treatment of infected persons in a shelter or temporary medical facility
  - Related medical facilities 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 overload or to quarantine potentially infected persons)
  - Use of specialized medical equipment
  - Medical waste disposal
  - Medical care and transport such as specialty ambulance transports, air evacuation, ventilators, etc.

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- III. 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 guidance approved by the Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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
- IV. Household pet sheltering and containment actions related to household pets in accordance with CDC guidelines
- V. Purchase and distribution of food, water, medicine, and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous materials suits
- VI. Movement of supplies and persons
- VII. Security and law enforcement which may include barricades and fencing
- VIII. Communications of general health and safety information to the public
  - Dissemination of information to the public to provide warnings and guidance about health and safety hazards
- IX. Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance
- X. Reimbursement for state, tribe, territory, and/or local government force account overtime
- XI. Use or lease of temporary generators for facilities that provide essential community services

Additional FEMA Resources	Document	Description
	<b>Memo and Fact Sheet</b>	Memo explaining that the emergency declaration allows entities to proceed with new and existing noncompetitively procured contracts within general guidelines.
	<b>Fact Sheet</b>	COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Fact Sheet
	<b>PA Program &amp; Policy Guide (PAPPG)</b>	Version 3.1 of the PA P&P Guide issued in April 2018 provides info on the PA program
	<b>Fact Sheet</b>	This Fact Sheet describes the scope of assistance that may be provided under a Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) emergency declaration in response to a domestic infectious disease event.

