



FEMA

October 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators

FROM: William C. Hagmaier
Assistant Administrator
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program is Available for
Presidentially Declared Emergencies

Congress amended Section 502(a)(6) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Section 416—the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP)—for Presidentially declared emergencies. This change took effect on December 23, 2022, with the passage of Section 7321 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 ([NDAA](#)). As such, the President may authorize CCP for emergencies declared on or after December 23, 2022.

To ensure timely execution of this legislative change, FEMA will apply existing CCP regulations at 44 C.F.R. § 206.171, as well as FEMA Policy 104-009-03 Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide ([IAPPG](#)), as closely as possible to CCP for Presidentially-declared emergencies.

When determining a request for a Presidentially declared emergency with CCP, FEMA will consider the same factors used to evaluate the need for an Individual Assistance program, as described in 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b). Events that result in emergency declarations rarely involve the level of damage to residential infrastructure to warrant the Individuals and Households Program (IHP). However, with passage of this NDAA legislation, Congress has clearly recognized that there can still be a need for CCP following such events. Although the CCP is often associated with the authorization of IHP in a major disaster, CCP is an independent Stafford Act authority and may be approved through an emergency declaration without IHP. The CCP includes the Immediate Services Program (ISP) and the Regular Services Program (RSP); both are available for declared emergencies.

When evaluating requests for CCP for events without significant residential impact, FEMA will focus on 44 C.F.R. §206.48(b)(5), Casualties, including deaths and injuries, as well as 44 C.F.R. §206.48(b)(4), Impact to Community Infrastructure, along with any other relevant factors and information provided.

FEMA and its CCP partner, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will work to standardize tools to support CCP for Presidentially declared emergencies, including those that transition into Presidentially-declared major disasters.

If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Rollay at chelsea.r.rollay@fema.dhs.gov.

Cc: Elizabeth Asche, Director (A), Individual Assistance Division
Monty LeMaire, Deputy Director (A), Individual Assistance Division
Federal Coordinating Officers
Regional Recovery Division Directors
Regional Individual Assistance Branch Chiefs
Regional Grants Management Division Directors