FEMA Awards Washington State $275 Million for Vaccine Distribution

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BOTHELL, Wash. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has obligated an initial $275 million to Washington's Department of Health (DOH) in support of vaccine distribution sites throughout the state. This Public Assistance grant will support Washington with emergency protective measures to store, handle, transport, distribute, and administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Washington DOH utilized contracts to establish the setup and operational costs for the distribution of vaccines. DOH is leading the implementation of the vaccine effort, which is State supported, regionally coordinated and locally synchronized.

The grant provides expedited federal funding for approximately half of the total anticipated award to support and reimburse eligible costs related to the State's vaccination program for an estimated 90-day period.

"These funds will support our Washington partners' extraordinary efforts to accelerate and expand access to COVID-19 vaccinations across the state," said FEMA Region 10 Acting Regional Administrator Vincent J. Maykovich.

Eligible costs include medical and support staff, including facility infection control measures; personal protective equipment (PPE); storage equipment, including coolers, freezers, temperature monitoring devices, and portable vaccine storage units for transportation; supplies such as emergency medical supplies (for emergency medical care needs that may arise in the administration of the vaccine), containers (for medical waste), as well as proper storage as needed for canisters of liquid nitrogen or dry ice.

For the COVID-19 response, FEMA has streamlined the Public Assistance Grant Program application and reimbursement process to get funds to applicants faster. Expedited reimbursements help local, state, and tribal officials address immediate threats to life, public health, and safety.

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