FEMA Awards Nearly $2.1 Million to Worcester Polytechnic Institute for COVID-19 Testing

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BOSTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending almost $2.1 million to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute to reimburse the university for the cost of contracting to test students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The $2,072,983 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the private science and engineering university in Worcester for the cost of diagnostic testing between August and December 2021.

Using contracts with the Clinical Research Sequencing Platform, (Broad Institutes, Inc. Harvard & Massachusetts Institute of Technology) WPI tested approximately 176,290 students and employees so that those infected with COVID-19 could be removed quickly from campus and interactive activities, thus preventing outbreaks.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist Worcester Polytechnic Institute with these costs,” said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Providing resources for our institutions of higher education to combat the COVID-19 pandemic is critical to their success, and to our success as a nation.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states, communities and certain private non profit organizations recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided more than $1 billion in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.