

# FEMA Awards Almost \$1.7 Million to Massachusetts for COVID Public Outreach Costs

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending nearly \$1.7 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reimburse the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the cost of contracting to operate a public information clearinghouse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$1,663,104 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the Department of Public Health for the cost of contracting to run a contact center for Massachusetts residents to get accurate, up-to-date information relevant to a wide-range of COVID-19 related topics between July 2022 and May 2023.

These topics included pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions such as distancing, hygiene, masking, vaccination, pre-exposure prophylaxis, isolation and quarantine requirements, and support.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with these costs,” said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Reimbursing state, county, and municipal governments – as well as eligible non-profits and tribal entities – for the costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic is an important part of our nation’s ongoing recovery.”

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

So far, FEMA has provided more than \$2.6 billion in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

