

# Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program

## Award Alternatives for a Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Government

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FEMA funds the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) to support disaster-related mental health assistance and training activities in areas that have received a Presidential major disaster declaration for Individual Assistance with CCP. Funding is provided through a federal award (e.g. grant or cooperative agreement) after the submission of an approvable application. When requested by state, tribal, or territorial governments under the approved declaration, the federal award may be used to provide crisis counseling services or contract with local mental health service entities familiar with the affected community. The CCP does not have a cost share.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Mental Health Services, within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), works in partnership with FEMA to provide technical assistance, consultation, grant administration, program oversight and training for state, tribal, and territorial designated mental health authorities.

## Program Overview for Tribal Governments

The mission of the program is to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the psychological effects of disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and educational services. It supports short-term interventions to assist disaster survivors in understanding their current situation and reactions, mitigating stress, promoting the use or development of coping strategies, providing emotional support and encouraging links with other individuals and agencies who may help survivors in their recovery process.

The intent of the crisis counseling award is to augment, not replace, current mental health and training activities in order to assist disaster survivors. The CCP is meant to tailor to the unique needs and cultural considerations of the population to be served. Funding for crisis counseling is available through two separate federal awards that each require their own application:

- **Immediate Services Program (ISP)** – the federal award application is due within 14 days from the date Individual Assistance was designated on the major disaster declaration and provides funding for up to 60 days from the date of the Individual Assistance designation on the major disaster.
- **Regular Services Program (RSP)** – the federal award application is due within 60 days from the date Individual Assistance was designated on the major disaster declaration and provides funding for up to 9 months from the date of the Notice of Award.

**NOTE:** Recipients and their subrecipients of funding provided by FEMA must adhere to Section 308 of the Stafford Act, which prohibits discrimination in the provision of Individual Assistance and other relief and assistance activities on the grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.



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## Tribal Government Options for CCP

It is important to note that there is no requirement for a tribal government to act on any of the three alternatives listed below to ensure services are accessible to its tribal members residing within the geographic boundaries of a declared state with a CCP. A tribal member is eligible to access crisis counseling services like any other individual living within the state geographic boundaries designated in a major disaster declaration that includes approval for the CCP.

The following award alternatives are to be considered only if a tribal government wishes to receive federal funding to implement crisis counseling services, whether under a state or a tribal major disaster declaration.

### Application and Award Options

1. On a state major disaster declaration with Individual Assistance – the state directly receives a CCP federal award and provides a portion of that funding to the tribal mental health agency to carry out part of the program.
  - This option allows the state entity applying for the federal award to include the tribal mental health agency as a sub-recipient or contractor within their CCP application. The state’s governor or authorized representative would designate the tribe’s mental health agency or organization to deliver crisis counseling services to tribal members.
  - A tribal mental health agency must submit all required fiscal and programmatic documentation to the state for inclusion in the state’s application prior to the 14-day or 60-day deadline (depending on whether it is an ISP or RSP), following the Individual Assistance designation on the major disaster or the tribal agency must submit required documentation to the state as a modification to the state’s existing CCP grant that has already been awarded.
  - Sub-recipients are responsible for adherence to applicable program requirements specified in the federal award, program policy, implementing regulations in 44 C.F.R. 206.171, and federal award regulations in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.
2. On a state major disaster declaration with Individual Assistance – the state and the tribal government both directly receive a CCP federal award.
  - Under this alternative, the tribal government must inform the FEMA Regional Administrator that it chooses to apply for the CCP federal award as a direct recipient. Upon notification, FEMA will inform the state to make certain there is no duplication of services and to ensure coordination of services.
  - Both the state and the tribe will submit a completed CCP federal award application independently by the applicable program deadline to be considered by FEMA.
  - Prior to any tribal government federal award approval and obligation of funding, the tribal government and FEMA must execute a FEMA-Tribe Agreement even if they have not sought a tribal major disaster declaration. In addition, if one is not already established, the tribal emergency management agency must coordinate with FEMA to obtain a SMARTLINK account.

- The tribal government must submit to FEMA its completed CCP federal award application with an estimated population of tribal members.
  - In addition to the FEMA-Tribe Agreement, a tribal government must meet all application deadlines, fiscal and programmatic reporting requirements, and assume all responsibilities as a recipient specified in the federal award, program policy, implementing regulations in 44 C.F.R. 206.171, and federal award regulations in 2 C.F.R. Part 200.
3. On a tribal major disaster declaration with Individual Assistance – the tribal government directly receives a CCP federal award to carry out the program.
- This option requires the tribal government to request and receive from the President a direct major disaster declaration with Individual Assistance that includes the CCP. If approved by the President, the tribal government may directly apply to FEMA for a federal award.
  - Prior to a federal award approval and obligation of funding, the tribal government and FEMA must execute a FEMA-Tribe Agreement. In addition, if one is not already established, the tribal emergency management agency must coordinate with FEMA to obtain a SMARTLINK account.
  - This alternative requires the tribal government to submit a federal award application for ISP to FEMA no later than 14 days after the Individual Assistance designation on the major disaster declaration and, for RSP, no later than 60 from that same Individual Assistance designation date, under 44 C.F.R. 206.171. In addition, the tribal government must include the designated mental health agency who is familiar with the community and will be providing the crisis counseling services.
  - Once a tribal government receives a Presidential major disaster declaration, the tribal government becomes the recipient and is responsible for the administration of any assistance authorized by the President which may include Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Recipient responsibilities are set forth in the FEMA-Tribe Agreement, 44 C.F.R. Part 206.44, and are further explained in the [Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#).
  - For tribes new to FEMA assistance, more information about the legal and administrative requirements for recipients may be found in FEMA's [New Recipients of Disaster Grants Guide](#) and by consulting with FEMA regional Recovery Division staff.

## For More Information

If a tribal government decides to pursue one of the options above, then FEMA regional and SAMHSA staff can assist in providing technical assistance and guidance. Additionally, the tribal government may wish to reference one of the two resources listed below.

The [Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#) is a document that consolidates policy statements for all Individual Assistance programs, including the CCP.

SAMHSA and the SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center, in collaboration with FEMA, have established and maintain an online [CCP Toolkit](#) containing required documents and tools to assist stakeholders in preparing, applying, implementing, managing, and terminating a disaster CCP.