



FEMA

March 17, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

Under the March 13, 2020, Coronavirus (COVID-19) nationwide emergency declaration and subsequent major disaster declarations for COVID-19, state, local, tribal, and territorial government entities and certain private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for assistance under FEMA's Public Assistance Program. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued the "[Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States](#)," which authorized FEMA to provide additional COVID-19 assistance and guidance in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

FEMA is developing an interim policy, *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance*, which defines the framework, policy details, and requirements for determining the eligibility of work and costs incurred to facilitate the safe opening and operation of eligible facilities. Such assistance "may include funding for the provision of personal protective equipment and disinfecting services and supplies." FEMA funding under this interim policy will be provided for costs incurred between January 21, 2021, through September 30, 2021, and will be provided at 100% Federal funding.

FEMA would like to hear from tribal leaders and representatives on implementation of this policy. Therefore, FEMA is hosting a teleconference tribal consultation session on March 19, 2021, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. To attend the session, participants may dial (800) 458-4121, using the confirmation code: 7660603. During the tribal consultation session, FEMA's Recovery Directorate staff will provide a brief overview of the interim policy and our approach to implementation.

FEMA remains committed to its responsibility under Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, reaffirmed by President Biden's January 26, 2021 "[Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)," to engage in consultation and collaboration with tribal officials. We look forward to receiving your valuable input.

Written comments on the framing paper or based on the information received during the tribal consultation session may be submitted through March 24, 2021. Questions about this session and any written comments may be directed to the Public Assistance Division through [fema-recovery-pa-](#)

policy@fema.dhs.gov or may be directed to FEMA Regional Tribal Liaisons. Contact information for FEMA Tribal Liaisons may be found at www.fema.gov/about/contact.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Turi", is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Keith Turi
Assistant Administrator
Recovery Directorate

cc: Tribal Emergency Managers
Tribal Associations