

Recovery COVID-19 Tribal Listening Session

December 8, 2020 | 1:00pm to 4:00pm EST



FEMA



Welcome and Introduction

- [Pete Gaynor, FEMA Administrator](#)

Office of Response and Recovery

- [Keith Turi, Assistant Administrator for Recovery](#)
- [Chris Smith, Director, Individual Assistance Division, Recovery](#)
- Tod Wells, Deputy Director, Public Assistance Division, Recovery
- Jessica Specht, Tribal Integration Advisor, Recovery

Moderator:

- Bambi Kraus, National Tribal Affairs Advisor, External Affairs



General Housekeeping

- Tribal leaders have priority during comment portion
- Raise your virtual hands
- Utilize the Q & A function for questions
- When commenting or asking a question, provide your name, title and affiliation
- Mute your mics when not speaking
- For better sound quality, turn cameras off

Accepting questions and feedback through January 8, 2021 to FEMA-Tribal-Recovery@fema.dhs.gov



Agenda: Topics to be Discussed

- Recovery Presentation
 - ❑ Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs
 - ❑ Recovery COVID-19 Assistance Overview
 - Public Assistance (PA) COVID-19 assistance and PA program delivery
 - Individual Assistance COVID-19 assistance
 - ❑ Policies on COVID-19 assistance and providing assistance in a COVID-19 environment
 - ❑ Review of COVID-19 Recovery tribal feedback and framing paper discussion questions
- Break
- **Tribal Leader Comments**
- Closing Remarks



FEMA Recovery Assistance Overview

FEMA Individual Assistance

- Mass Care/Emergency Assistance
- Individuals and Households Program
 - Housing Assistance
 - Other Needs Assistance
- Disaster Case Management
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance
- Disaster Legal Services
- Voluntary Agency Coordination



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Federal Emergency Management Agency



FEMA Public Assistance

Technical and financial assistance for:

Emergency Assistance

Eliminate or lessen an immediate threat

- A. Debris removal
- B. Emergency protective measures

Permanent Restoration

Provides for restoration of (design, capacity, function and mitigation)

- C. Roads/bridges
- D. Water control facilities
- E. Buildings/equipment
- F. Utilities
- G. Parks, recreational, and other facilities

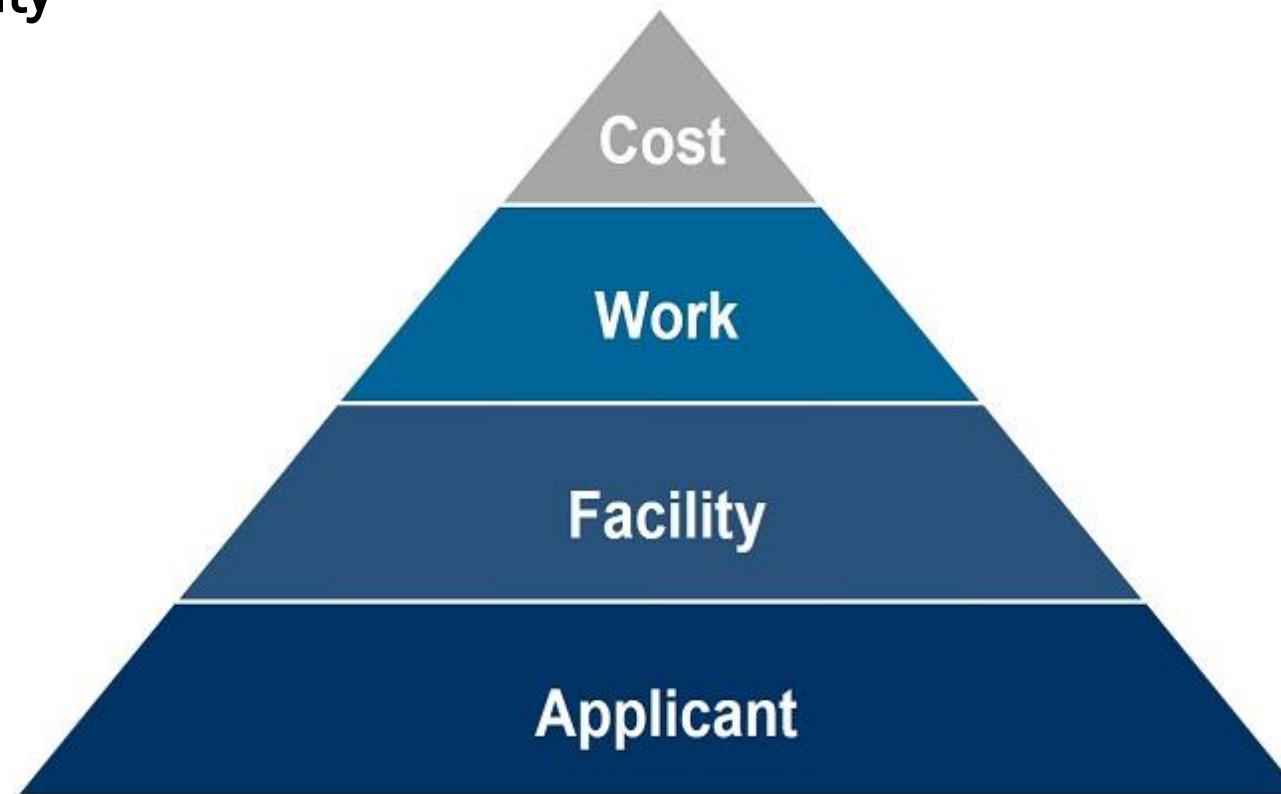
**Cost Share for Public Assistance is 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal.
President is authorized to adjust this cost share.**



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FEMA Public Assistance

General Eligibility



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FEMA Assistance Authorized for COVID-19

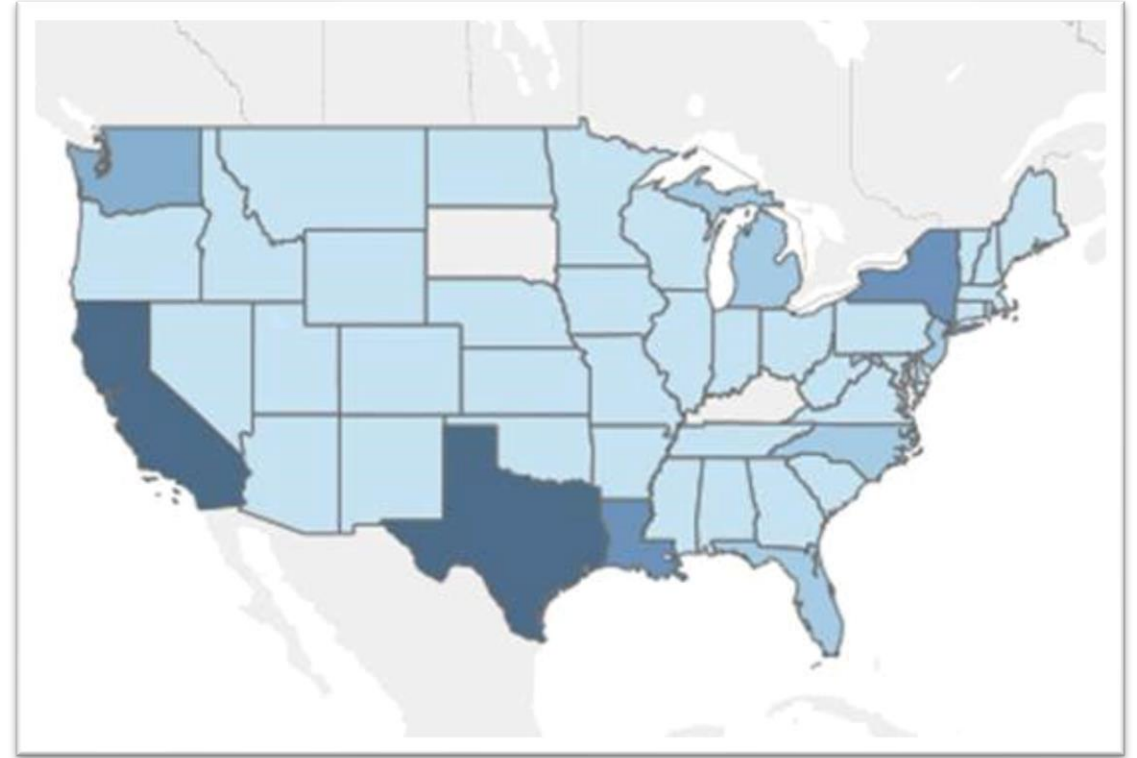
COVID-19: An Unprecedented Response

- Together with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FEMA has led the whole-of-government COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
- As of November 27, 2020, FEMA obligated \$55.7 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts.
- FEMA is partnering with more than 26,000 government and non-profit applicants to reimburse costs under Public Assistance.
- As with all disasters—but especially important during this pandemic—locally executed, tribe/state managed, and federally supported recovery requires tribal, state and local officials to drive their recovery.
- Over 220 tribal nations have applied for FEMA Public Assistance for COVID-19 as Recipients or Subrecipients.



FEMA Public Assistance: Support for COVID-19

- Over \$6 billion in support of COVID-19 response efforts. We're working with--
 - Supporting local health officials to undertake emergency life-safety activities, in coordination with HHS/CDC
 - [Work Eligible for Public Assistance](#) includes medical care, sheltering, feeding, mass mortuary services, emergency operation centers, communications, personal protective equipment and disinfection



Map shows darker colors based on amount of COVID-19 PA funding obligated.



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Requesting FEMA Public Assistance

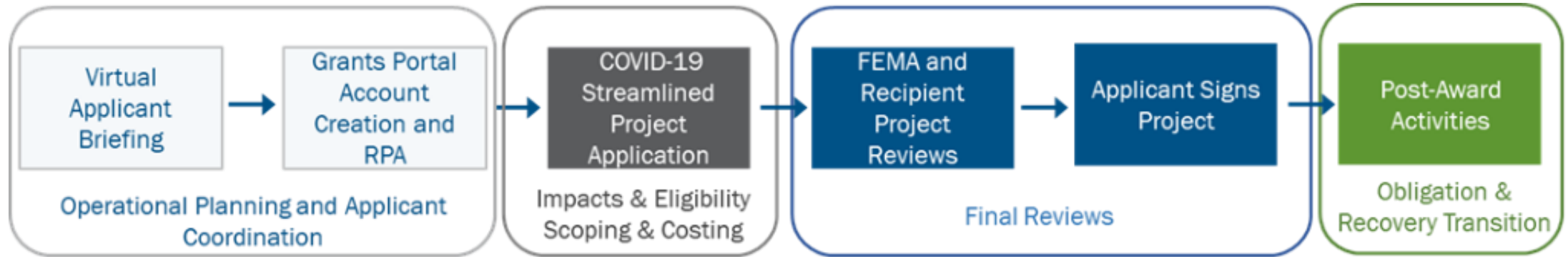
Major Disaster Declarations for COVID-19

- Every state in the country received a disaster declaration for COVID-19, which means every tribal government in the country is covered by a major disaster declaration.
- Tribal governments also have the option to request their own Presidential major disaster declaration.
- A tribal government may choose to pursue FEMA Public Assistance as a:
 1. Subrecipient under a state declaration
 2. Recipient under a state declaration
 3. A direct declaration on behalf of the tribal government



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FEMA Public Assistance: COVID-19 Application Process



- *Create an account, submit a Request for Public Assistance, and complete a COVID-19 streamlined project application at: grantee.fema.gov*
- Videos on the [FEMA PA Grants Portal & Manager Channel](#) can guide you through the process



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Public Assistance Cost Share Adjustment Requests

The President has the sole discretion to adjust the cost share under an emergency or major disaster declaration (including the nationwide emergency declaration for COVID-19).

- Under both tribal and state declarations, a tribal government Recipient - which has a direct relationship with FEMA - may individually make a request for a cost share adjustment from the President through their FEMA Regional Administrator.
- A state that has received a major disaster declaration may request a cost share adjustment on behalf of tribal Subrecipients and Recipients in the state.



Public Assistance Cost Share Adjustment Requests

Nationwide Emergency Declaration

- Stated that FEMA Public Assistance would be provided at a 75% Federal/25% non-Federal cost share.

Major Disaster Declarations

- When actual Federal obligations (not estimates) meet or exceed \$149 per tribal member, FEMA will recommend the President increase the Federal cost share from 75% to not more than 90%.
- FEMA will use a tribal government's membership, as reported by a tribal government, to determine per capita obligations for each tribal government.



Public Assistance Cost Share Offsets

- Generally, other federal agency funding cannot be used to meet the FEMA non-federal share requirement.
- For COVID-19, there are two exceptions:
 - Treasury's CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund, and
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Disaster Block Grant (CDBG-CV), and Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program.



Public Assistance Cost Share Offsets

Donated Resources

The non-Federal share of eligible FEMA Public Assistance work (e.g., supplies, equipment, personnel, and evacuation assistance) can be offset by applicants through donated resources, such as:

- volunteer labor,
- donated equipment,
- supplies or materials, and
- logistical support.



COVID-19 Assistance: Interagency Coordination

- There is currently more than \$3 trillion in supplemental COVID-19 interagency funding available.
 - This includes federal partners such as the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury. These and other federal partners are providing support to address public health needs of teachers and students, facility modifications and other critical needs.
- FEMA published interagency guides and COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps for Education, Food and Nutrition, Housing, Economic Recovery and Healthcare to help identify other federal funding and resources to address specific needs. These resources can be found on FEMA.gov:
 - [COVID-19 Resource Summary Report](#)
 - [COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps](#)
 - [COVID-19 Supplemental Resources searchable tool](#)



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FEMA Individual Assistance: COVID-19 Assistance

Crisis Counseling Program (CCP)

- Provided in some states, and tribal members that live inside those states will have access to those services.
- There are three application and award options available for tribal governments:
 1. The state receives CCP funds and provides a portion to the tribal mental health agency
 2. The state and the tribal government both directly receive CCP funds
 3. The tribal government directly receives CCP funds through a tribal major disaster declaration

[CCP Award Alternatives for Indian Tribal Governments Fact Sheet](#)



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Individual Assistance: COVID-19 Assistance

Lost Wages Assistance

- The President Authorized FEMA to expend up to \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund for lost wage payments.
- Grant assistance provided to participating states, territories, and the District of Columbia through the Department of Labor (DOL)
 - Tribal members are required to apply for assistance through the state DOL office.

[Lost Wages Supplemental Payment Assistance Guidelines](#)



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Individual Assistance: COVID-19 Assistance

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) FY 2019, FY 2020, and CARES Act Funding

- Congress appropriated \$200 million as supplemental humanitarian funding in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- Congress appropriated \$120 million and \$125 million annual funding in FY 2019 and FY 2020, respectively, to the EFSP. CARES Act and FY 2019 funding began to be disbursed in June 2020 and are being administered concurrently. Disbursement of FY 2020 funding will begin in January 2021.
- With this total \$445 million, the EFSP will have disbursed more than \$5 billion to communities in the United States and its territories in its 38-year history.
 - Estimated 3.2 billion meals, 296.2 million nights of shelter, 7.2 million utility payments and 5.4 million rent/mortgage payments to help families stay in their homes will have been provided.



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Individual Assistance: COVID-19 Assistance

Voluntary Agency Coordination and Donations Management

- In this COVID environment, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons may continue to provide in person support or may now provide remote support to disaster affected tribes or states to develop local long term recovery groups to assist survivors with disaster related unmet needs.
- As of December 4, 2020, the FEMA Donations Unit tracked and coordinated over 2,000 inquiries which included 249 valid domestic donation offers. These offers were matched with well over 1,000 National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster members, non-profit partners, tribes and states.
- Masks: 87.2 million masks (cloth/N95/KN95/surgical/etc.)
- Hand Sanitizer: 447,000 gallons (from 16 oz to 55 gal drums)
- Non-surgical Gowns: 1.5 million
- Cases of Food: 257,000
- Household Items: 345 tractor-trailer loads (9,000 pallets)
- 9+ million medical supplies, 10 million new batteries and 7 million pharmaceuticals



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COVID-19 Recovery Policies

Policies on Providing COVID-19 Assistance

- FEMA developed numerous interim policies, job aids, fact sheets, resource roadmaps, and pandemic planning guidance to quickly assist our tribal, state, local, and territorial partners in the delivery of eligible emergency protective measures and assistance to survivors across the nation.
- The COVID-19 assistance-related Recovery policies include:
 1. [Work Eligible for Public Assistance Interim Policy](#);
 2. [Purchase and Distribution of Food Eligible for Public Assistance Policy](#); and
 3. [Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance Policy](#).

Work Eligible for Public Assistance Interim Policy

General COVID-19 Eligibility

- Eligible Emergency Protective Measures:
- Purchase/distribution of PPE directly related to eligible emergency work, or provided to healthcare workers, patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection, and first responders
- Medical Care*
- Purchase/distribution of food*
- Non-congregate medical sheltering*
- Operation of Emergency Operations Centers
- Communications to disseminate public information
- Mass casualty management

Assistance for other activities may be eligible when necessary to perform otherwise eligible emergency work:

- Cloth facial coverings
- Temperature scanning
- Disinfection
- Temporary physical barriers
- Law enforcement and security
- Training and technical assistance
- Labor costs
- Movement of equipment and supplies

**In accordance with the COVID-19 specific policy or subsequent updates.*



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Purchase and Distribution of Food Eligible for Public Assistance Policy

- Covers the purchase, package, and preparation of food commodities, delivery and distribution, and the leasing of storage space and equipment.
- Eligible populations include individuals who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19, high-risk individuals and other populations as identified by public health experts.
- Recipient tribal nations may request 30-day extensions from Regional Administrators with documentation of continued need.

Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance Policy

- Outlines eligible facility, equipment, supplies, staffing, and wraparound services for COVID-19 medical care.
- Eligible work and costs may vary by facility type (i.e., primary medical care facilities vs. expanded and temporary medical care facilities).
- FEMA released a [vaccination planning FAQ](#) that provides information related to the coordinated federal effort for COVID-19 vaccinations including anticipated assistance under PA.

Policies on Providing Assistance in COVID-19 Environment

- FEMA also produced the following policies and guidance on providing assistance in a COVID-19 environment:
 1. [Streamlined Inspection Process, Individuals and Households Program Interim Policy;](#)
 2. [Pandemic Remote Inspection Process Individuals and Households Program Interim Policy;](#)
 3. [Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Interim Policy;](#)
and
 4. [Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Pandemic Planning Considerations.](#)

Streamlined Inspection Process, Individuals and Households Program Interim Policy

- Housing Inspection Services (HIS) works with FEMA regions, states, tribes, and territories before, during, and after disasters.
- Based on the Individuals and Households Program's (IHP) Streamlined Inspection, applicants who state minimal damage, and can live in their homes will not automatically be issued a home inspection.
- HIS Remote Inspection Job Aid assists Assessors to identify the level of damage determinations based on the applicant's statement during the interview process.
- The Job Aid was designed to guide an assessor through a series of questions allowing them to record disaster-caused damage.
- The questions asked do not contain sensitive or personally identifiable information. All applicant responses and data are cleared after each use and are not stored or shared.



Pandemic Remote Inspection Process Individuals and Households Program Interim Policy

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, FEMA suspended all normal field operations on Tuesday March 17, 2020.
- IA's Housing Inspections Section is utilizing experienced in-house and contract assessors to conduct remote damage assessments according to applicable program policies and guidance.
- The inspector asks questions about disaster caused damages and expenses to include medical, dental, funeral, moving and storage, uniforms, schoolbooks and supplies, essential computer, or essential tools required for employment/school.
- The inspector documents disaster caused damages and **does not** determine whether a survivor is eligible for assistance.



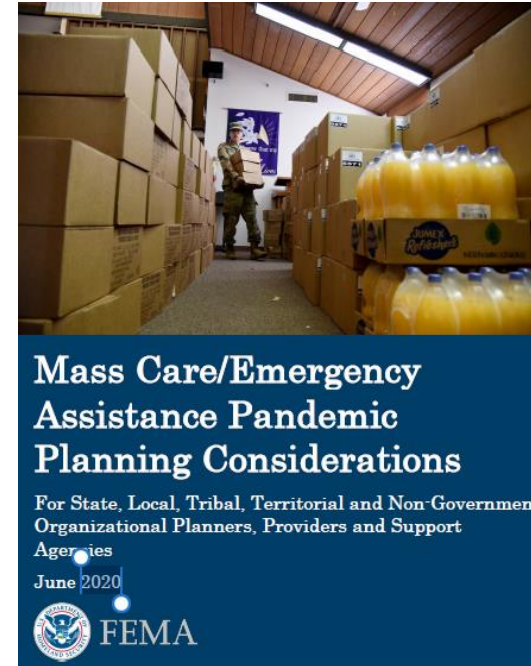
Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Interim Policy

- Under COVID-19 declarations, medical sheltering for health and medical-related needs such as isolation and quarantine is eligible for PA.
- Additionally, the Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Interim Policy provides non-congregate sheltering guidance for non-COVID declarations during the pandemic:
 - FEMA recognizes state, local, tribal and territorial governments (SLTTs) must ensure survivors are sheltered in a manner that does not increase the risk of exposure to or further transmission of COVID-19.
 - FEMA expects SLTTs will work with survivors to identify available assistance options for continued sheltering or housing needs beyond what is authorized in the policy.



Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Pandemic Planning Considerations Guide

- One of several resources that FEMA and Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 Partners have developed to support state, local, tribal, and territorial governments
- Provides information on sheltering, feeding, evacuation, and the federal resource request process
- Developed using health and safety planning information and requirements outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



[Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Pandemic Planning Considerations Guide](#)



Review of COVID-19 Tribal Questions & Framing Paper Discussion Questions

Review of COVID-19 Tribal Questions and Feedback Received

Public Assistance

- Eligibility
 - Medical supplies (e.g., PPE, testing)
 - Labor costs
 - Non-congregate sheltering
 - Feeding and Food Distribution
- Interim Policies
- Recipient Administrative Requirements
- Expedited Funding Requirements
- Recipient vs. Subrecipient Decision Support

- Disposition Requirements
- Technical Assistance and Training

Declarations

- Cost Share Adjustment
- Direct declarations
- Administrative requirements

Interagency Coordination

- Guidance
- Cost Share Match
- Supplies Access



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Framing Paper - Discussion Questions

General:

1. What unique challenges do tribal leaders face in requesting and receiving Public Assistance and Individual Assistance?
2. How can non-local and/or non-tribal voluntary organizations play a role supporting a tribe before, during, after a disaster?
3. What additional support do tribes need from FEMA (e.g., philanthropic connections, capacity building, long-term recovery group development, etc.)?
4. What would tribal leaders like to see in the future in collaborating with FEMA for emergency or disaster assistance?



Framing Paper - Discussion Questions

Individual Assistance Program and Administration:

1. What are the challenges tribal members currently have when completing critical steps of the FEMA registration process? Verifying their identity or home ownership? Verifying their home occupancy?
2. Are tribal leaders familiar with the processes necessary for completing and submitting Administrative Plans and/or the [Other Needs Assistance Administrative Option Selection Form](#), or any other agreements necessary for tribal only Individual Assistance declarations?
3. What considerations or efforts have been made for tribes to engage more with voluntary organizations? Can best practices be shared?
4. What support would tribal leaders like to see when collaborating with FEMA on community services programs such as the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program and Disaster Case Management?



Framing Paper - Discussion Questions

Training:

1. What type of training and/or materials should FEMA develop to supplement Public Assistance policies?
2. What types of training and/or materials should FEMA develop to supplement Individual Assistance policies?
3. Are there any other training programs that would be helpful for working with FEMA?



Break Time

Followed by Tribal Comments

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FEMA

Reminders

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Closing Remarks

Closing Remarks

- Questions and any written comments may be directed to FEMA's Recovery Directorate via FEMA-Tribal-Recovery@fema.dhs.gov.
- We will be accepting questions/feedback until January 8, 2021.
- We took notes on the discussion and will be providing a follow-up letter.



FEMA Regional Contacts

- FEMA Regional Tribal Liaisons can connect tribes with FEMA regional Recovery subject matter experts for technical assistance:

www.fema.gov/about/contact

- FEMA COVID-19 Response site:

www.fema.gov/coronavirus



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