


February 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO: Regional Administrators  
FEMA Regions 1-10

ATTN: Regional Recovery Division Directors  
Regional Response Division Directors  
FEMA Regions 1-10

FROM: Melissa K. Forbes   
Assistant Administrator  
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 –Incident Period Closure, Public Assistance  
Emergency Work Deadline, and Resulting Program Guidance**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided critical assistance to meet emergency needs across the nation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to save lives and protect public health and safety. Since the President issued a nationwide Stafford Act emergency declaration on March 13, 2020, FEMA has awarded more than \$100 billion in funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments, private non-profits (PNPs), and individuals. This includes more than \$60 billion in Public Assistance (PA) grants and more than \$40 billion through the Lost Wages Assistance, Funeral Assistance, and Crisis Counseling programs.

On January 11, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services extended the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for 90 days, to April 11, 2023. On January 30, 2023, the President informed Congress that the national emergency and public health emergency declarations would be briefly extended and conclude simultaneously on May 11, 2023.

In recognition of the progress made in responding to the pandemic, FEMA announced on February 10, 2023, the closure of the incident period for all COVID-19 emergency and major disaster declarations under the Stafford Act. This notification was made via the publication of a notice in the Federal Register pursuant to 44 C.F.R. 206.32(f) and closes the incident period effective May 11, 2023, coinciding with the end of the public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal Register Notice provides 90-day advance notice to SLTT governments and eligible PNPs of the closure of the COVID-19 incident period.

### **Public Assistance Programmatic Guidance**

On August 24, 2020, the Assistant Administrator for Recovery extended the Emergency Work completion deadline for Public Assistance under 44 C.F.R. 206.204(d) until further notice and committed FEMA to provide notification prior to the establishment of a deadline for the

completion of emergency work. This memorandum follows through on that commitment and provides advance notice that May 11, 2023, is established as the Public Assistance Emergency Work completion deadline (44 C.F.R. 206.204(c)(1)) for the COVID-19 national emergency and major disaster declarations. Therefore May 11, 2023, is the date on which eligibility of all emergency work and associated costs for COVID-19 ends. Costs incurred for work related to COVID-19 after that date will not be eligible for Public Assistance funding. However, in recognition that costs may be incurred for demobilization, disposition, and disposal of equipment and supplies after the completion of eligible emergency work, this memorandum also approves an extension to the emergency work period of performance only for these demobilization, disposition, and disposal activities, for a period not to exceed 90 days from the end of the emergency work completion deadline. FEMA will provide additional guidance for any further extensions solely for demobilization, disposition, and disposal purposes.

On June 15, 2022, FEMA released the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Public Assistance Programmatic Deadlines Policy](#). This policy established PA programmatic deadlines across all COVID-19 emergency and major disaster declarations. For all COVID-19 declarations, FEMA established December 31, 2022, as the deadline to identify and report all emergency work activities performed through July 1, 2022. FEMA will issue additional guidance establishing further project submission and programmatic deadlines for COVID-19 emergency work activities performed on or after July 2, 2022, through May 11, 2023. FEMA will notify applicants no less than 90 days prior to the project submission deadline.

### **Individual Assistance Programmatic Guidance**

For the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency, FEMA has provided Funeral Assistance for COVID-19-related deaths through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Other Needs Assistance (ONA) provision. Congress appropriated \$2 billion to the Disaster Relief Fund in December 2020 to support this assistance and through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), appropriated another \$50 billion for all FEMA COVID-19-related assistance, to include funeral assistance. ARPA also set the federal cost share at 100% and made the appropriation available through September 30, 2025. The end of the COVID-19 incident period will not affect the application or eligibility for COVID-19-related funeral expenses. In order to be eligible for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, expenses must have been incurred on or after January 20, 2020. FEMA intends to continue providing COVID-19 Funeral Assistance through September 30, 2025, which is the date identified by Congress in the ARPA appropriation.

For additional information regarding Public Assistance contact Ana Montero, Director, Public Assistance Division, and for Individual Assistance contact, Frank Matranga, Director, Individual Assistance Division.