




FEMA

March 30, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators
FEMA Regions I – X

ATTN: Recovery Division Directors
FEMA Regions I – X

FROM: Melissa K. Forbes 
Assistant Administrator
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Public Assistance Implementation – Progress, Success
and Next Steps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program has provided critical assistance to meet emergency needs across the country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to save lives and protect public health and safety. In the two years since the declaration of a nationwide emergency for the pandemic, FEMA has awarded more than \$42 billion in PA funding to states, tribal nations, localities, territories, and eligible private non-profits (PNPs). This has provided vital resources to government agencies, hospitals, schools, and other Applicants. It has paid for emergency medical care, personal protective equipment (PPE), testing, vaccinations, and emergency sheltering and feeding. To fully support this essential work, the President authorized provision of PA at 100% Federal funding through July 1, 2022.

In recognition of the progress made in responding to the pandemic, FEMA is establishing two new deadlines for the PA program to assist states, tribal nations, localities, territories and eligible PNPs in making their requests for PA and submitting their applications for funding. These deadlines define several timeframes for applying for PA funding, supporting Applicants in making funding decisions and enabling FEMA to process funding that is needed to address the incurred costs in responding to the pandemic over the last two years. At the beginning of the pandemic, FEMA amended certain deadlines for the PA Program to better serve Recipients and Applicants during this nationwide emergency (44 CFR Part 206, Subpart G, Public Assistance Project Administration).¹ The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional guidance regarding these deadlines.

¹ FEMA extended: (1) the 30-day deadline to submit Requests for Public Assistance (RPA) via memo dated March 21, 2020; (2) the 60-day deadline to identify and report damage to FEMA via memo dated May 14, 2020; and (3) the completion of work deadline for Emergency Work via memo dated August 24, 2020.

Request for Public Assistance Submission Deadline

On March 21, 2020, FEMA extended the nationwide Request for Public Assistance (RPA) deadline for the COVID-19 pandemic incident. At the time, FEMA stated that the RPA submission period would remain open for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, as declared by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, unless an earlier deadline is deemed appropriate by the Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate. FEMA has determined that it is appropriate to set July 1, 2022, as the deadline to submit RPAs.

The incident period for the COVID-19 pandemic has been open for more than two years, and Applicants have had extended opportunity to submit RPAs. To date, more than 25,000 RPAs have been submitted and approved. Ninety-four percent of RPAs were submitted in 2020. The rate at which FEMA receives RPAs continues to decline. FEMA is currently receiving an average of only five new RPAs per day, with no notable increases associated with the Delta and Omicron variants.

Accordingly, under the authority in 44 CFR 206.202(f)(2) to extend the deadlines set forth in 44 CFR 206.202(c), FEMA is establishing a deadline of July 1, 2022 to submit RPAs for all COVID-19 declarations. FEMA Regional Administrators may further extend the RPA deadline up to 90 days after July 1, 2022, when the Recipient makes a request in writing and the request is justified based on extenuating circumstances beyond the Recipient's or Applicant's control. For time extensions beyond 90 days, Regional Administrators must coordinate with, and gain concurrence from, the Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate at FEMA Headquarters.

Interim Programmatic Deadline

On March 1, 2022, the President extended the 100% Federal cost share for COVID-19 to July 1, 2022. FEMA is establishing an interim deadline that aligns with this date for the submission of funding requests for work completed from the beginning of the COVID-19 incident period through July 1, 2022. This deadline applies to all work under COVID-19 declarations that will be awarded at 100% Federal funding. The deadline to submit funding requests for work performed through of July 1, 2022 at the 100% Federal cost share is December 31, 2022. FEMA will issue additional guidance to further clarify this programmatic deadline. This guidance will address what Applicants must submit to FEMA with their project applications by December 31, 2022, how FEMA will process and award those requests for funding, and next steps for closure of projects. The guidance will also include provisions for extensions to this deadline, similar to that for RPAs above.

This interim deadline does not affect the eligibility of Public Assistance funding after July 1, 2022. The incident period for the COVID-19 emergency and major disaster declarations remains open at this time. Setting this interim deadline will enable FEMA as well as Recipients and Applicants to make funding decisions and determinations, and process projects in support of completing national-level efforts to respond to and recover from the pandemic.

If you have any questions, please contact Ana Montero, Division Director of the Public Assistance Division at Ana.Montero@fema.dhs.gov.