

## **COVID-19: Public Assistance for Medical Facilities**

### **What is Public Assistance?**

Public assistance is a reimbursement program in which certain entities can receive federal funds for costs incurred as a result of a declared disaster event; in this case, the declared disaster is COVID-19, designated at DR-4506 for Pennsylvania.

### **Who is eligible for Public Assistance?**

- Health departments, hospitals, and other health facilities related to state and local government
- Private nonprofit hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities
  - Must have tax exempt status from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or a ruling letter from the IRS under section 501 (c), (d), or (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
- Other documentation needed for private nonprofits
  - Charter/Bylaws/Articles of incorporation
  - Proof of insurance

### **What is eligible?**

DR-4491 authorizes Category B: Emergency Protective Measures. This category includes actions that are taken to protect lives, property, and public health. This may include labor hours, PPE and other supply purchases, equipment needed for COVID-19 patients, event specific training, and more.

Eligible costs must be:

- tracked and well-documented;
- the legal responsibility of the organization; and
- necessary and a direct result of the event (COVID-19).

### **What is NOT eligible?**

While an organization may be eligible, not all of their work/costs will be eligible. Ineligible costs include:

- Loss of revenue;
- Loss of useful service life;
- Tax assessments; and
- Increased operating costs

### **Temporary and Expanded Medical facilities**

When the emergency medical delivery system within a declared area is destroyed, severely compromised, or overwhelmed, FEMA may fund extraordinary costs associated with providing temporary facilities for emergency medical care or expanding existing medical care capacity in response to the declared incident. Temporary facilities and expansions may be used to treat COVID-19 patients or non-COVID-19 patients, as appropriate.

**Considerations when creating temporary facilities:***Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Considerations*

While not all temporary facilities will have EHP considerations it's possible that others will, so it is important to be mindful of these potential considerations and what is required for reimbursement. See the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and Emergency Protective Measures for COVID-19 Fact Sheet for a list of potential temporary facilities with EHP considerations, documentation required, and best practices for these facilities.

*Floodplain Considerations*

If a new facility is being built, or a current facility expanded, which may include medical temporary treatments facilities, morgue and/or mortuary services, or medical waste disposal, it is important to take into account floodplain considerations. Even a small chance of flooding can pose a significant risk. See the Floodplain Considerations for Temporary Critical Facilities factsheet for more detailed information.

*Other Federal Funds Considerations*

In COVID-19 declarations where temporary facilities and expansions require additional health care workers, SLTT governments may contract with medical providers to provide medical services in these facilities. FEMA cannot duplicate funding provided by another source, and will reconcile final funding based on any funding provided by another agency or covered by insurance. Applicable requirements for force account labor also apply, as do requirements for contracts under Federal grants.

**Grants Portal & Other Information**

Grant Portal is the platform used by FEMA to facilitate the Public Assistance Grants process. In order to apply for Public Assistance funding, you must have a Grants Portal account for your facility. For more information or to access the form to request a Grants Portal account, please visit the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Public Assistance website:

<https://www.pema.pa.gov/Recovery/Pages/default.aspx>