

FEMA COVID Grants Fact Sheet

Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented logistical, operational and fiscal challenges to municipal entities, educational institutions, and not-for-profit organizations. Thankfully, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has stepped in to offer financial assistance through COVID grants and reimbursements. These vital resources can help organizations recover and continue serving their communities. Here's what you need to know about the process of obtaining FEMA COVID grants and reimbursements, including eligibility and insights to successfully navigate this complex process.

1. Understand FEMA's Public Assistance Program:

Familiarize yourself with FEMA's Public Assistance Program, specifically tailored to provide financial assistance to eligible entities affected by COVID-19. The program covers a wide range of expenses related to emergency response, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Expert consultants like BRC can help navigate the process, including arrangements without upfront or out-of-pocket costs for the applicant.

2. Determine Eligibility:

Review FEMA's eligibility requirements to ensure your organization qualifies for COVID grants and reimbursements. Typically, eligible entities include state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as certain private non-profit organizations.

3. Eligible Expenses:

FEMA can provide reimbursement for a wide range of COVID-related expenses, subject to eligibility and specific guidelines. While the eligibility criteria and eligible expenses can vary, some common categories of COVID expenses that may be reimbursed by FEMA include:

- **Emergency Operations:** Costs associated with emergency response coordination, such as personnel, equipment, and facilities.
- **Medical Response:** Expenses related to medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), testing, vaccinations, and medical surge capacity.
- **Public Health Measures:** Costs incurred for public health initiatives, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine facilities, public awareness campaigns, and public health personnel.



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- **Non-Congregate Sheltering:** Expenses for providing sheltering alternatives to minimize the spread of COVID-19, such as hotel rooms or other non-congregate sheltering arrangements.
- **Emergency Communications:** Costs related to emergency communication systems, technologies, and communication infrastructure to support COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
- **Sanitation and Cleaning:** Expenses for enhanced cleaning and sanitization measures in public facilities, schools, transportation, and other high-traffic areas.
- **Security and Crowd Control:** Costs associated with maintaining public safety, managing crowds, and ensuring compliance with COVID-related regulations.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection:** Expenses incurred to protect critical infrastructure and essential services during the pandemic.
- **Transportation and Distribution:** Costs related to transportation and distribution of essential supplies, medical equipment, food, and other necessary resources.

***It is important to note that reimbursement eligibility and documentation requirements may vary, and FEMA's guidelines should be consulted for specific details and limitations.*

3. Document Expenses:

Keep meticulous records of all eligible COVID-related expenses your organization has incurred. This includes costs such as emergency operations, protective measures, medical supplies, and the provision of essential services during the pandemic. Accurate and comprehensive documentation will be critical when applying for grants or seeking reimbursements. You'll be asked to have procurement information, contracts, invoices, proof of payment, timesheets and paystubs. If you don't have this already, BRC can help gather and organize your FEMA covid grant documentation.

4. Submitting a Request for Assistance:

Initiate the process by submitting a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) to your respective FEMA regional office. This serves as an official request for financial assistance under the Public Assistance Program. Provide detailed information about your organization, the nature of the expenses, and their connection to COVID-19.



5. Grant Application or Reimbursement Request:

Based on your organization's needs and circumstances, you may choose to apply for a grant or seek reimbursement for eligible expenses already incurred. Follow FEMA's guidelines and procedures for either option. Prepare a comprehensive application or reimbursement request, including supporting documentation, project descriptions, and financial details.

6. Collaborate with FEMA and Maintain Communication:

Throughout the process, establish open lines of communication with FEMA representatives. Collaborate with them to clarify any uncertainties, address additional documentation requirements, and seek guidance. Maintain regular contact to stay informed about the status of your application or reimbursement request. BRC has been working with FEMA on behalf of applicants for over a decade, with a team that has coordinated reimbursements in over 20 states.

7. Ensure Compliance and Accountability:

Comply with all federal regulations, guidelines, and reporting requirements associated with FEMA grants and reimbursements. Properly manage and document the use of funds received, adhering to FEMA's guidelines for transparency and accountability.

8. Seek Professional Assistance:

Consider engaging professional assistance, such as consulting firms like BRC, experienced in FEMA grants and reimbursements. These experts with expertise in FEMA COVID grants can provide invaluable assistance by navigating the complex application process, ensuring eligibility requirements are met, crafting compelling grant proposals, and offering guidance on documentation and compliance. Their knowledge of FEMA guidelines and experience in securing grants significantly increase the chances of success and expedite the funding acquisition process.

Conclusion:

Obtaining FEMA COVID grants and reimbursements requires careful planning, thorough documentation, and adherence to FEMA's guidelines. By understanding the process, maintaining open communication with FEMA, and considering professional assistance, municipal entities and non-profits can unlock the financial support necessary to recover and serve their communities effectively.

For assistance with your COVID grants, contact Berquist Recovery Consulting for a free consultation.



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