

## **Tribal Listening Session on FEMA COVID-19 Recovery Assistance**

*December 8, 2020, 1:00-4:00 P.M. ET*

### **Overarching Consultation Questions**

***What courses of action can the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) take to ensure that its Recovery programs and services meet the disaster-related needs of tribal nations to the maximum extent possible during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic? What are the unique tribal considerations that FEMA should take into consideration when developing policies for this public health emergency?***

### **Background**

On March 13, 2020, the President declared a nationwide emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Additionally, all states and territories and one tribal nation have received major disaster declarations. As a result, tribal nations have applied for assistance from FEMA as Public Assistance Recipients or Subrecipients under an emergency or major disaster declaration.

In response to this unprecedented event, FEMA, in collaboration with its federal partners, 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. A compilation of COVID-19 resources, including these new policies and guidance may be found the [COVID-19 page on FEMA.gov](#). 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](#).

Additionally, FEMA 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](#);
4. [Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Pandemic Planning Considerations](#).

As of November 9, 2020, FEMA has provided COVID-19 support to over 220 tribal nations who have applied for Public Assistance as either Recipients or Subrecipients. Never in FEMA's history have so many tribes requested assistance simultaneously for the same event.

### **Tribal Listening Session**

On December 8, FEMA's Recovery Directorate, in partnership with FEMA's Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division, is hosting a virtual listening session to consult with tribal nations on Recovery policies and their implementation and impact during our continuous response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, FEMA would like to hear about tribal experiences as Recipients of FEMA Public Assistance and opportunities to improve tribal program delivery. During the listening session, Recovery staff will provide a brief overview of Public Assistance Category B: Emergency Protective Measures, the policies and guidance listed above, tribal inquiries received by Recovery, and an opportunity for tribal leaders to provide additional input and feedback on Recovery programs.

## 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?

### 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. Would tribes consider creating a Tribal Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) position to coordinate with federal and state VAL counterparts?
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?

### 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?