

# FEMA Updates Policy on Medical Care Eligible for Public Assistance

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FEMA is updating its eligible medical care interim policy and will begin processing eligible projects with a 100 percent federal cost share. This increase in Public Assistance (PA) funding further reduces the financial burden placed on states, tribes and territories as they undertake actions to save lives in response to COVID-19.

FEMA is committed to the equitable distribution of pandemic response and recovery efforts. This policy includes provisions necessary to support state, local, tribal and territorial governments by minimizing their cost-share, expanding assistance for medical care and embedding fair practices to demonstrate unburdened access to communities in need. For eligible work performed between January 20, 2021 and September 30, 2021, FEMA is funding the entire cost of the emergency protective measures made eligible by this policy with a 100 percent cost share. For previously awarded projects, FEMA will obligate additional funding to increase the federal funding from 75 percent to 100 percent.

As stated in “[Executive Order on Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery](#),” dated January 21, 2021, COVID-19 has a disproportionate impact on communities of color and other underserved populations, including members of the LGBTQI+ community, persons with disabilities, those with limited English proficiency and those living at the margins of our economy. As a condition of receiving this financial assistance, Recipients and Subrecipients must focus the use of FEMA funding on the highest-risk communities and underserved populations as determined by established measures of social and economic disadvantage (e.g. the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Social Vulnerability Index), and must prioritize limited resources to ensure an equitable pandemic response.

Additionally, FEMA developed the *Equitable COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Recipient and Subrecipient Job Aid*. This job aid includes specific procedures Recipients and Subrecipients must take to ensure equitable medical care and vaccine administration consistent with equitable pandemic response and recovery, as indicated in the *FEMA COVID-19 Pandemic: Medical Care Eligible for Public Assistance Interim Policy (Version 2)*.

This [interim policy](#) is applicable to eligible PA Recipients and Subrecipients only and is exclusive to emergency and major disaster declarations for COVID-19. This revision supersedes the version of this policy issued on May 9, 2020.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at [FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov)
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