On March 26, a federal disaster declaration (DR 4490) for Missouri was approved to help support local governments and eligible nonprofits with reimbursements for emergency response costs. The Public Assistance Projects Category utilized for this response is known as Category B: Emergency Protective Measures. Public Assistance (PA) is a federal grant program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and managed at the state level by Missouri’s State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA.) As a reimbursing, cost-share program, FEMA may reimburse approved applicants up to 75% of eligible costs. FEMA requires documentation that supports reimbursement of claimed costs. These incurred costs as a response to COVID-19 must be coded and captured separately from normal operation or activities that may utilize other funding sources.

There are two types of the projects FEMA will consider: small and large. Projects falling below a certain threshold (approximately $131,000 for 2020) are considered small. The threshold is adjusted annually for inflation. For small projects, payment of the federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project and notification is required upon completion of the project.

For large projects, payment is made on the basis of actual costs determined after the project is completed, although interim payments may be made as necessary, or on the basis of an agreed upon estimate. The eligible applicant has the choice of how it wishes to receive the federal grant. Once FEMA obligates funds to the state, further management of the assistance, including disbursement to sub-grantees, is the responsibility of the state. FEMA will continue to monitor the recovery progress to ensure the timely delivery of eligible assistance and compliance with the law and regulations.

Consistent with President Trump’s national emergency declaration for the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on March 13, 2020, FEMA urges officials to, without delay, take appropriate actions that are necessary to protect public health and safety pursuant to public health guidance and conditions and capabilities in their jurisdictions. FEMA provides the following guidance on the types of emergency protective measures.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures

The first step, if your municipality is even considering getting reimbursed for FEMA expenses through the Public Assistance Program, is to set up your municipality in FEMA’s Grants Portal as an applicant at http://grantee.fema.gov. Originally, the deadline to submit the Request for Public Assistance was April 25. However, the Request for Public Assistance deadline has been nationally extended and will remain open for the duration of the public health emergency and the foreseeable future, unless an earlier deadline is deemed appropriate.
measures that may be eligible under FEMA’s Public Assistance Program in accordance with the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration in order to ensure that resource constraints do not inhibit efforts to respond to this unprecedented disaster.

**FEMA Public Assistance Program**

In accordance with section 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed under Category B of FEMA’s Public Assistance program. FEMA will not duplicate assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or other federal agencies.

State, territorial, tribal and local government entities and certain private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Public Assistance. FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75% federal cost share. This assistance will require execution of a FEMA-State/Tribal/Territory Agreement, as appropriate, and execution of an applicable emergency plan. Local governments and other eligible PA applicants will apply through their respective state, tribal or territorial jurisdictions.

**Eligible Assistance**

Under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration described above, FEMA may provide assistance for emergency protective measures including, but not limited to, the following, if not funded by the HHS/CDC or other federal agency.

- **Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety:**
  - Emergency Operation Center costs
  - Training specific to the declared event
  - Disinfection of eligible public facilities
  - Technical assistance to state, tribal, territorial or local governments on emergency management and control of immediate threats to public health and safety

- **Emergency medical care:**
  - Non-deferrable medical treatment of infected persons in a shelter or temporary medical facility
  - Related medical facility services and supplies
  - Temporary medical facilities and/or enhanced medical/hospital capacity (for treatment

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**Q2 2020 Advisory Risk Briefing**

**Addressing Risk in the Procure to Pay Process**

**Wednesday, June 10**

**12 - 1 p.m.**

**Online/Live Webinar**

Presented by:
Amy Julian
Director, Advisory Services

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when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near term and cannot accommodate the patient load or to quarantine potentially infected persons)
• Use of specialized medical equipment
• Medical waste disposal
• Emergency medical transport
• Medical sheltering (e.g. when existing facilities are reasonably forecasted to become overloaded in the near future and cannot accommodate needs)
• All sheltering must be conducted in accordance with standards and/or guidance approved by HHS/CDC and must be implemented in a manner that incorporates social distancing measures
• Non-congregate medical sheltering is subject to prior approval by FEMA and is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the public health needs of the event, is pursuant to the direction of appropriate public health officials and does not extend beyond the duration of the public health emergency
• Household pet sheltering and containment actions related to household pets in accordance with CDC guidelines
• Purchase and distribution of food, water, ice, medicine and other consumable supplies, to include personal protective equipment and hazardous material suits
• Movement of supplies and persons
• Security and law enforcement
• Communications of general health and safety information to the public
• Search and rescue to locate and recover members of the population requiring assistance
• Reimbursement for state, tribe, territory and/or local government force account overtime costs

More Information

Further information about eligible emergency protective measures can be found in the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, FP 104-009-2 (April 2018).

For more information, visit the following federal government websites:
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) (CDC)
• Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services