Memorandum on Maximizing Assistance to Respond to COVID-19
MARCH 01, 2022 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS
Deadline is approaching for potential applicants to submit their Request for Public Assistance (RPA)

On March 1, 2022, the White House released a Memorandum on **Maximizing Assistance to Respond to COVID-19**. The Administration goal is to continue to combat and respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic with the full capacity and capability of the Federal Government to protect and support our families, schools, and businesses, and to assist State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to do the same, including through emergency and disaster assistance available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and through Federal support of the Governors' use of the National Guard.

[Memorandum on Maximizing Assistance to Respond to COVID-19 | The White House](#)

This memorandum provides for several modifications and changes (end-dates and deadlines). Here is a summary of items that will affect the Public Assistance Program:

- Extends the 100% cost-share until July 1, 2022. This includes the continued ability to use Title 32 National Guard forces to support response activities.

- Recognizing the historic nature of the pandemic and the strain it has placed on state and local governments – after July 1, FEMA intends to implement a 90% Federal Cost share, rather than revert across the board to the statutory minimum 75% Federal Cost Share that applies to typical federal disaster declarations.

- FEMA intends to establish a July 1, 2022, deadline for potential applicants to submit their Request for Public Assistance (RPA), which determines whether an applicant is eligible to submit projects for grant funding. We've already received more than 800 requests for public assistance statewide; however, of those, many have yet to submit a project.

- We encourage our state agencies, local emergency managers and public health authorities to submit projects. Eligible applicants must submit project applications for work under the 100% cost share by December 31, 2022.

The COVID-19 disaster is currently operating under the *COVID-19 Pandemic Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance Interim Policy (Version 2) dated 9.8.21.*

If you intend to submit a Request for Public Assistance, follow the steps below.

The first step is to send an email to Assist.Public@mil.wa.gov with "*COVID-19 RPA Assistance Requested*" in the subject line.

In the body of the email include the following verbiage:

"We've been advised to request assistance submitting a FEMA Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form in the Grants Portal for the COVID-19 response. We have eligible expenditures that exceed the $3,300 minimum threshold."

Someone from the EMD - Public Assistance program will reach out and help you through the steps to log into the grants portal to submit the RPA that's due by June 30, 2022. The next step will be working with your assigned Program Delivery Manager (PDMG) to complete the steps necessary to submit the project information and supporting documents into the Grants Portal for the FEMA review.

<div align="center">

Washington State
Emergency Management Division - Public Assistance Program
www.emd.wa.gov / Assist.Public@mil.wa.gov

</div>