

Novel Coronavirus 2019 Disease (COVID-19) Related Funding Opportunities

Arkansas Critical Access Hospitals
Information Current as of April 15, 2020

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- **FEMA Public Assistance Grant Opportunities**

Who qualifies for FEMA Public Assistance grants (“PA grants”), what types of costs may qualify, and grant process overview.

- **Federal Communications Commission Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services**

Who qualifies for grants and what types of costs may qualify.

- **Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program**

High-level overview.

- **Medicare Accelerated and Advanced Payment Requests**

High-level overview.

FEMA PA Grants for

Emergency COVID-19 Care



FEMA PA Grants

- What types of entities qualify to apply for PA grants related to COVID-19?
- What types of costs may be funded with PA grants?
- What is the process for requesting a PA grant?

FEMA PA Grants

Entities That May Qualify for a FEMA COVID-19 Grant

The following government entities may be eligible for FEMA COVID-19 grant funding:

- States
- Local
- Tribal
- Territories
- Nonprofit organizations (with an IRS effective ruling letter granting tax exemption under Section 501(c), (d), or (e), (including hospitals and related facilities, clinics, long-term care facilities, and outpatient facilities))

FEMA PA Grants

Types of Costs That May be Funded by FEMA Grants

The following types of emergency medical care costs may qualify for FEMA grant funding not funded elsewhere (such as by Medicare, Medicaid, HHS, etc.). *Funding is also available for emergency operations, which is not specifically addressed in this document.*

Emergency Medical Care Related to COVID-19

- Triage and medically necessary tests and diagnosis related to COVID-19 cases
- Emergency medical treatment of COVID-19 patients
- Prescription costs related to COVID-19 treatment
- Use or lease of specialized medical equipment necessary to respond to COVID-19 cases

FEMA PA Grants

Types of Costs That May be Funded by FEMA Grants (Continued)

Emergency Medical Care Related to COVID-19 (Continued)

- Purchase of PPE, durable medical equipment, and consumable medical supplies necessary to respond to COVID-19 cases (note that disposition requirements may apply)
- Medical waste disposal related to eligible emergency medical care
- Emergency medical transport related to COVID-19
- Temporary medical facilities and expanded medical care facility capacity for COVID-19 for facilities overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases and/or to quarantine patients infected or potentially infected by COVID-19
- Temporary facilities and expansions may be used to treat COVID-19 patients or non-COVID-19 patients, as appropriate

FEMA PA Grants

Types of Costs That May be Funded by FEMA Grants (Continued)

Medical Sheltering Related to COVID-19

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.
- Noncongregate medical sheltering may also be eligible, subject to prior FEMA approval.
- Sheltering specific populations in noncongregate shelters should be determined by public health official's' direction or in accordance with the direction or guidance of health officials by the appropriate state or local entities. The request should specify the populations to be sheltered.

FEMA PA Grants

Types of Costs That May be Funded by FEMA Grants (Continued)

Eligible COVID-19 Emergency Costs

Costs must be directly tied to the performance of eligible work, documented, and reasonable in nature and amount. Examples of eligible [emergency costs](#) include:

- Emergency work:
 - Overtime labor for budgeted employees and straight-time and over-time labor for unbudgeted employees
 - Backfill employee labor, call-back pay, night-time pay, weekend differential pay, and stand-by time
- Necessary equipment
- Necessary supplies and materials

FEMA PA Grants

Action: Keep Track of Covid-19 Costs for FEMA Grants

Work Eligibility

- Work must be necessary as a direct result of the emergency or major disaster (44 CFR §206.223(a)(1)).
- Costs must be directly related to COVID-19 cases. For example, emergency medical care costs related to a non-COVID-19 illness or injury are not eligible.
- Costs for personal protective equipment for healthcare providers who are working in a hospital treating COVID-19 patients are eligible, because it is necessary to prevent further spread of the virus and protect healthcare workers and other patients.

FEMA PA Grants

Action: Keep Track of Covid-19 Costs for FEMA Grants

Cost Eligibility

- All assistance provided under public assistance is subject to standard program eligibility requirements, including reasonable cost, procurement, and duplication of benefits requirements.
- Procurement requirements differ between state versus nonstate entities and by normal versus emergency/exigent circumstances. Procurement requirements for the COVID-19 declarations include the following:
 - States and territorial governments are required to follow their procurement procedures, as well as federal requirements for procurement of recovered materials and inclusion of required contract provisions per 2 C.F.R. §200.317, §200.322, and §200.326.
 - Local and tribal governments, nonprofits, and other nonstate entities may proceed with new and existing noncompetitively procured contracts.

FEMA PA Grants

Action: Keep Track of Covid-19 Costs for FEMA Grants

Cost Eligibility (Continued)

- Governments may contract with medical providers, including private for-profit hospitals, to carry out any eligible activity described in the Eligible Emergency Medical Care Activities section.
- The aforementioned memorandum and other information related to exigent and emergency circumstances procurement is available on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/20/procurement-under-grants-under-exigent-or-emergency-circumstances.

FEMA PA Grants

Action: Keep Track of Covid-19 Costs for FEMA Grants

Tracking COVID-19 Emergency Costs (Not Funded Elsewhere)

- To expedite the granting process, it will be important to keep track of all COVID-19 emergency care costs and documentation in separate accounts.
- If FEMA funding is granted, 75% of the cost may be funded by FEMA and 25% by state/local funds.

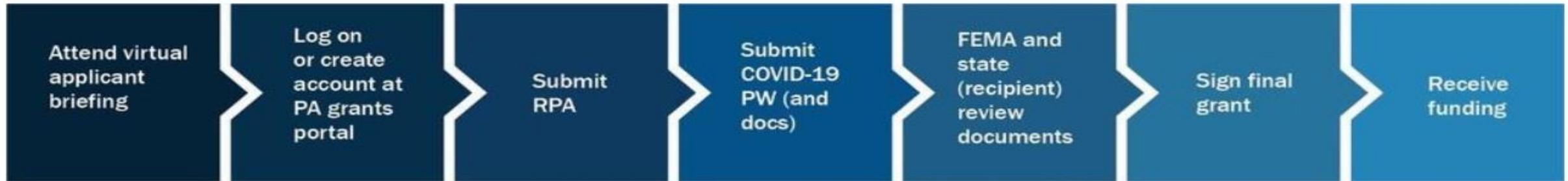
Time Limitations

Emergency medical care costs are typically only eligible for up to 30 days from the declaration date unless extended by FEMA. However, under the COVID-19 Declarations, eligible emergency medical care costs are eligible for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, as determined by HHS.

FEMA PA Grants

Process for Requesting a FEMA PA Grant

FEMA Process Outline



- FEMA stated that nonprofit organizations (Applicants) should first reach out to the local Emergency Management Department or appropriate State Emergency Management representative (Recipient) to apply for PA funding. <https://www.adem.arkansas.gov/public-assistance>
- Recipients: States, local, tribes, or territories
- Applicants: States, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments, or eligible private nonprofits submitting a request for assistance under a recipient's federal award <https://grantee.fema.gov/>
- **AK Division of Emergency Management: 501-683-6700**

FEMA PA Grants

Process for Requesting a FEMA PA Grant (Continued)

Role of Recipient

- Declaration of a Major Disaster Declaration must be made and approved. A briefing process will then be launched between recipients and FEMA on available assistance and how to apply.
- Under the President's March 13 emergency declaration and subsequent major disaster declarations, SLTT government entities and certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations are eligible to apply for PA.

FEMA PA Grants

Process for Requesting a FEMA PA Grant (Continued)

Role of Applicant

- Applicants will submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form online at the PA Grants Portal. FEMA noted the following in its information on March 31, 2020, “Applicants are empowered to drive their own recovery and directly apply for reimbursement without waiting for FEMA to assign a Program Delivery Manager. FEMA is simplifying the process so applicants may directly apply for assistance through the PA Grants Portal.”
- Recipients must set up accounts on the PA Grants Portal for themselves and applicants. Applicants should contact the appropriate Recipient (SLTT) to obtain PA Grants Portal log-in information.

FEMA PA Grants

Process for Requesting a FEMA PA Grant (Continued)

Key Takeaways

- FEMA stated that nonprofit organizations should first reach out to their local Emergency Management Department or appropriate State Emergency Management representative to apply for PA funding.
- Applicant forms are now available from FEMA.
- Timing: FEMA will accept RPAs for 30 days after the end of the HHS Public Emergency Declaration. On March 21, 2020, FEMA extended the 30-day deadline for submitting RPAs to remain open for the duration of the Public Health Emergency declared by HHS.
- Keep track of your expenses related to COVID-19 emergency services for potential funding.
- [https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20\(Mar%2028%202020\).pdf](https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20(Mar%2028%202020).pdf)

A young woman with dark, curly hair is smiling warmly at an elderly woman with short, grey hair. They are both looking towards each other in a close, friendly interaction. The young woman is wearing a light-colored, textured cardigan, and the elderly woman is wearing a grey hoodie. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

FCC Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

- Congress appropriated \$200 million in funding for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program (the “Telehealth Program”) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help healthcare providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Telehealth Program will provide immediate support to eligible healthcare providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by fully funding their telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to provide critical connected care services until the Telehealth Program's funds have been expended or the COVID-19 pandemic has ended.
- Grant funding up to \$1 million per applicant.
- The Telehealth Program is open to rural and nonrural providers.
- <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>

FCC Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

The Program limits participation to nonprofit and public eligible healthcare providers that fall within the following categories:

- Post-secondary educational institutions offering healthcare instruction, teaching hospitals, and medical schools
- Community health centers or health centers providing healthcare to migrants
- Local health departments or agencies
- Community mental health centers
- Not-for-profit hospitals
- Rural health clinics
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Consortia of healthcare providers consisting of one or more entities falling into the first seven categories

FCC Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

Eligible healthcare providers that purchased telecommunications services, information services, and/or devices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic **after March 13, 2020**, may apply to receive funding support through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program for eligible services purchased on or after March 13, 2020.

In addition, COVID-19 Telehealth Program support will be available to eligible healthcare providers for services that require monthly recurring charges, such as broadband connectivity or remote patient monitoring services, through September 30, 2020.

FCC Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

Examples of services and devices Telehealth Program applicants may seek funding for include:

- **Telecommunications Services and Broadband Connectivity Services:** Voice services and Internet connectivity services for healthcare providers or their patients.
- **Information Services:** Remote patient monitoring platforms and services; patient reported outcome platforms; store and forward services such as asynchronous transfer of patient images and data for interpretation by a physician; platforms and services to provide synchronous video consultation.
- **Internet Connected Devices/Equipment:** Tablets, smart phones, or connected devices to receive connected care services at home (e.g., broadband enabled blood pressure monitors, pulse-ox) for patient or healthcare provider use; telemedicine kiosks/carts for healthcare provider site.

FCC Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

There are three steps interested providers can take immediately to prepare to apply for the Telehealth Program:

- Obtain an FCC Registration Number (FRN) from the Commission Registration System (CORES), as well as a CORES username and password at that link. A FRN is a 10-digit number that is assigned to a business or individual registering with the FCC and used to identify the registrant's business dealings with the FCC.
<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>
- Obtain an eligibility determination from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by filing FCC Form 460 through My Portal on USAC's webpage. (Filers do not need to be rural health care providers in order to file Form 460 for this program.)
- Register with the federal System for Award Management (SAM)

Contact USAC for specific questions about eligibility and completing the eligibility form (FCC Form 460) via telephone at (800) 453-1546 or via email at: RHC-Assist@usac.org.

FCC Grant Opportunities for Telemedicine Services

- Eligibility and Registration Form - FCC Form 460
- Application Form:
 - <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-telehealth-application-form.pdf>



Small Business Administration (SBA)

Programs for “Eligible” Small Businesses

SBA Programs for “Eligible” Small Businesses

Eligible small businesses include certain types of businesses with less than 500 employees or that meet revenue limitations set by NAICS code.

- **Paycheck Protection Plan Loan:**

- The maximum loan amount is the lesser of: (1) (2019 average total monthly gross payroll costs (as defined) X 2.5) plus outstanding amount of prior Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) made between January 31, 2020, to date of this new loan to be refinanced OR (2) \$10,000,000.
- A portion of this loan may be forgiven based on a formula related to employee retention.
- Any amounts that are not forgiven will be repaid over two years at 1% interest.

SBA Programs for “Eligible” Small Businesses

- **Current EIDL:**
 - Eligible small businesses can receive up to \$2 million in funding through SBA disaster loan assistance.
 - These loans are tentatively at 3.75% interest rates and 2.75% for nonprofits. These loans have a 4% maximum cap.
- Acceptance of applications began April 3, and funding is expected to be depleted rapidly. Consequently, interested entities **MUST** act **FAST**.
- There are complex eligibility criteria and application processes for these SBA programs. Detailed information for these programs is beyond the scope of this presentation.
- However, Wipfli representatives are available to assist in providing additional information or assistance with this process.

A photograph of a doctor in a white lab coat sitting at a desk, pointing with a pen at a 'HEALTH CHECK' form on a clipboard. The doctor is wearing a watch and has a stethoscope around their neck. A patient's hands are clasped in front of them. The background shows a laptop and other office items.

Medicare Accelerated and Advanced

Payment Requests

Medicare Accelerated Payment Process

- What is the Medicare Accelerated Payment Process?
- Eligibility and Process for Receiving Medicare Accelerated Payments.

Medicare Accelerated Payment Process

Medicare accelerated payments are accelerated/advance payments intended to provide necessary funds when there is a disruption in claims submission and/or claims processing.

These expedited payments can also be offered in circumstances such as national emergencies or natural disasters to accelerate cash flow to the impacted healthcare providers and suppliers.

CMS is authorized to provide accelerated/advance payments **during the period of the public health emergency** to any Medicare provider/supplier that submits a request to the appropriate Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and meets the required qualifications.

Keep in mind, this is an advance payment for services potentially to be rendered. Therefore, it is subject to repayment/recoupment if these amounts remain unearned based on reimbursement methods and systems in place for your organization based on a reconciliation process.

Medicare Accelerated Payment Process

Eligibility

- Have billed Medicare for claims within the last 180 days from the application process
- Not be in bankruptcy
- Not be in active medical review or medical program investigation
- Not have outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments

Process

- Complete and submit the application on your MAC website
- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Contracting/FFSProvCustSvcGen/MAC-Website-List>
- It is the MAC's goal to submit payments in seven days of the request

Medicare Accelerated Payment Process

Amount of Payments

- Most providers will be able to receive 100% of Medicare payments for a three-month period.
- Inpatient acute hospitals, children's hospitals, and certain cancer hospitals will be able to receive 100% of Medicare payments for a six- month period.
- Critical access hospitals (CAHs) will be able to receive 125% of Medicare payments for a six-month period.

Repayment Timing

- Will begin 120 days after receipt of payment.
- For most hospitals and CAHs, repayment is to be complete within one year of payment.

Recoupment Process

Providers will be paid for claims for the initial 120 days after payment. After that date, the recoupment process will begin.



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