



## PSA

**Date:** April 8, 2020  
**To:** All Media  
**From:** Stephanie Krell, PIO Unified Command Team  
**Subject:** **FEMA Public Assistance for Eligible Organizations**

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency designated COVID-19 a qualified disaster, making FEMA Public Assistance (PA) available to state and eligible local, tribal governments and certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in all counties in the State of Oregon. This is a reimbursement based program, and we anticipate significant demand for a limited pool of funds. Below is information on the program, its eligibility criteria, and how to track relevant information and the application process.

**Program Description:** The PA Program provides Federal financial assistance at a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction of or guidance of state, local, tribal and territorial public health officials.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants include special districts (as listed in Oregon Revised Statute 198), school districts, local governments, state agencies, and certain private nonprofits that have incurred cost for response activities and/or have sustained facility damage as a direct result of the event. PNPs are those entities that provide a governmental type service, and have a 501(c), (d) or (e) tax exemption status.

**What costs are eligible:** Costs must be directly tied to the performance of eligible work related to COVID-19, documented, and reasonable in nature and amount. Examples of eligible costs include:

1. For emergency work:

- a. Overtime labor for budgeted employees and straight-time and overtime labor for unbudgeted employees;  
Backfill employee labor, Call-back pay, Night-time pay, Weekend differential pay, Stand-by time;
2. Necessary equipment;
3. Necessary supplies and materials.

**Action Required:**

1. Review guides and documentation to determine eligibility and applicability.
  - a. <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/23/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-public-assistance-simplified-application>
  - b. [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1525468328389-4a038bbe9081cd7dfe7538e7751aa9c/PAPPG\\_3.1\\_508\\_FINAL\\_5-4-2018.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1525468328389-4a038bbe9081cd7dfe7538e7751aa9c/PAPPG_3.1_508_FINAL_5-4-2018.pdf)
2. Set up a project to track any potential costs associated with the event (COVID), including method to track staff time related to the event.
  - a. The incident period is from January 20, 2020 and continuing.
3. Follow instructions below from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management for submittal (included below) and please also send copy of any damage inventories to Unified Command via [carrie@mcedd.org](mailto:carrie@mcedd.org) and [nate.stice@oregon.gov](mailto:nate.stice@oregon.gov) to help us track county by county level costs associated with this incident. Consider filling out a request for public assistance form and damage inventory to date for initial submission to ensure you're in the queue.
4. Stay tuned for more as we think about how best to educate and help communities/entities work through this program.
5. Please help us get this information out to other eligible entities that may have expenses that qualify.

**FEMA Grants Portal Webinars:**

- The Public Assistance program is a very Applicant driven process for future reimbursement. It is strongly recommended that FEMA Public Assistance Applicants try to attend this initial Applicant Grants Portal training.
- Thursday, April 9 or Friday, April 10
  - 10 AM, 2 PM or 4 PM <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/gpapplicant/>

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