



Recovery – Infrastructure DR-4524 (COVID-19) Public Assistance

On March 20, 2020, President Trump issued a federal emergency declaration, under the Stafford Act, in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In doing so, this allowed FEMA to initiate their Public Assistance (PA) program allowing states to apply for reimbursement of COVID-19 related emergency response and protective measures which have been incurred beginning January 20, 2020. PA is a reimbursement program intended to assist jurisdictions in recouping disaster related costs that are above and beyond their ability to recover without state and/or federal assistance.

Starting on April 03, 2020, the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), initiated Applicant Briefings in response to the COVID-19 declaration, thus enabling counties, cities, towns, special taxing districts, and certain tribal nations, private non-profits, and houses of worship, to begin participating in the program. Applicant Briefings continue to be held weekly.

For interested parties that may be eligible under the PA program, and who have not already attended an Applicant Briefing for this event, please email a request for an invitation to the next Applicant Briefing to: Infrastructure@azdema.gov.

In order to participate in the PA program and seek reimbursement, it is **CRITICAL** to attend the Applicant Briefing. It is recommended that multiple staff from each Applicant attend the briefing. Recommended staff includes leadership/policy, emergency managers, finance, and local elected officials.

Each Applicant Briefing is conducted virtually. Following the Briefing, Applicants with potential eligible costs under the program must submit their Grants Portal applications. At this time, all Applicants must submit their Grants Portal application through DEMA, as described during the Applicant Briefing. The submission of the Grants Portal application also establishes the point(s) of contact for the Applicant.

Once the Grants Portal application and Request for Public Assistance (RPA) are received and approved, DEMA Recovery will assign a Project Specialist to each Applicant. The Project Specialist will then contact the Applicant's designated point of contact, as established in Grants Portal, and assist the Applicant in completing the required grant application, capturing and documenting both incurred and estimated costs, collecting required supporting documentation, and submitting the grant application for approval and funding.

If you are unsure if your organization has already submitted their Grants Portal application and/or the RPA, please send an inquiry to: Infrastructure@azdema.gov.