



## Public Schools and/or School Boards Guidance

### Eligibility of Public Schools and/or School Boards and Guidelines

Certain government entities may be Applicants for Public Assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including Public Schools and/or School Boards, as long as the work performed by the Public School and/or School Board is within the Applicant's legal responsibility. The minimum threshold for cost reimbursement is set at \$3,300. All eligible FEMA Public Assistance funding will be provided at a 75 percent of total eligible costs, and the state is dependent on the council of local governments fiscal stress index. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is the pass-through agency for funding. Currently, the reimbursement timeline is unknown due to the magnitude of this disaster. VDEM will assign a point of contact to work with each Applicant.

If School Boards are financed by local governments, those costs may be rolled up under the local government's costs as an Applicant. However, a School Boards may apply directly to FEMA as an Applicant for their eligible costs. For questions regarding eligibility of Schools and/or School Boards, please email the VDEM reach out to the VDEM Recovery team at [Recovery@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:Recovery@vdem.virginia.gov).

### Eligibility of Work Covered under Category B for COVID-19 Public Assistance

Under the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration, FEMA may provide assistance for emergency protective measures (Category B). While some activities listed may be eligible for funding, **final reimbursement determinations will be coordinated by HHS and FEMA**. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Management, control and reduction of immediate threats to public health and safety
- Emergency medical care
- Medical sheltering (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

### Eligible Costs

- **(Force Account) Labor:** Based on actual hourly rates plus the cost of the employee's actual fringe benefits. FEMA calculates the fringe benefit cost based on a percentage of the hourly pay rate. Eligibility of overtime, premium pay, and compensatory time are based on the Applicant's pre-disaster written labor policy.
- **(Force Account) Equipment:** Equipment is based on equipment rates <https://www.fema.gov/schedule-equipment-rates>.
- **Contracts:** Contracts must be compliant with the 2 CFR 200.317 – 326
- **Materials and Supplies:** Based on current commercial rates, which FEMA validates based on invoices from previous purchases or information available from vendors in the area.
- **Volunteer Labor:** Volunteer labor is based on the same straight-time hourly labor rate, and fringe benefits, as a similarly qualified person in the Applicant's organization who normally performs similar work. If the Applicant does not have employees performing similar work, FEMA uses a rate consistent with the labor market. Volunteer labor cannot be directly reimbursed by FEMA but can count towards the applicant's 25% cost share.
- **Donated Equipment:** Equipment is based on equipment rates <https://www.fema.gov/schedule-equipment-rates>. Volunteer equipment cannot be directly reimbursed by FEMA, but can count towards the applicant's 25% cost share.

For more information on eligibility and additional resources for Public Assistance, please visit the VDEM COVID-19 website at <https://www.vaemergency.gov/coronavirus/disaster-grants-and-loans/gov-ngo/>