

Summary of Call with Brad Bartholomew, COVID19 Mitigation and Recovery Section Manager, Utah Division of Emergency Management – Thursday, April 2, 2020 (2:00 PM)

Call Highlights:

- Counties do not need to declare a State of Emergency to be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance, however Utah Division of Emergency Management highly recommends that counties declare a State of Emergency
- County Leaders should work closely with County Emergency Managers as they apply for FEMA Public Assistance to ensure that they are on the same page and not duplicating efforts
- A county should have one designated person who will be the lead for FEMA reimbursement requests – this person is often the county finance manager
- FEMA Public Assistance may reimburse the counties for COVID-19 related expenses up to 75% -
 - counties should explore whether certain costs could instead be reimbursed under the CARES Act, which may reimburse local governments up to 100% for some expenses
- Counties should carefully document all COVID-19 related expenses and keep all receipts to include with project worksheets
- FEMA currently has very quick turnaround time to fund reimbursement requests, although this could change as FEMA receives more project worksheets
- Utah Division of Emergency Management has sent out a list of COVID-19 eligible expenses that may be reimbursed through FEMA public assistance
- Costs incurred to county programs due to lost revenue will likely not be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance, but counties should nevertheless keep track of such costs and see if future FEMA reimbursement is possible
- FEMA Public Assistance can only reimburse expenses – counties cannot receive upfront funding for COVID-19 related programs
- Distribution of food, water, ice, and medicine to specific at-risk communities will likely be an eligible expense, but not distribution of food, water, ice or medicine to the community at-large

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