



Vaccine Reimbursement through Public Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced supplemental funds are available through the Public Assistance (PA) Program for [eligible work](#) and costs associated with the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. (Costs covered by another source of federal funding or insurance are not eligible).

Examples of eligible work and costs under FEMA PA include, but are not limited to:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE), other equipment, and supplies required for storing, handling, distributing/transporting and administering COVID-19 vaccines.
 - PPE includes items necessary for proper handling and administration of vaccines as well as handling dry ice for storage and transportation needs.
 - Equipment includes, coolers, freezers, temperature monitoring devices and portable vaccine storage units for transportation.
 - Supplies include emergency medical supplies (for emergency medical care needs that may arise in the administration of the vaccine), sharps containers (for medical waste) and supplies necessary for proper storage like cannisters of liquid nitrogen or dry ice.
 - Transportation support includes refrigerated trucks and transport security when reasonable and necessary.
- Facility support costs, including leasing space for storage and/or administration of vaccines, utilities, maintenance and security.
- Additional staff, if necessary, including medical and support staff not paid for by another funding source, consistent with FEMA PA labor policies (see *Chapter 2:V.A. Applicant (Force Account) Labor* of the PAPPG(V3.1)).
- Onsite infection control measures including PPE for staff as well as cloth face coverings for patients, temperature scanners, physical barriers (e.g., plexiglass dividers) and disinfection of the facility in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Emergency medical care associated with vaccine administration (e.g., to address allergic reactions to the vaccine or other emergency medical needs that arise in the administration of the vaccine).
- Medical waste disposal.
- Communications to disseminate public information regarding vaccinations

Project Application Development

The state and federal goal is to move as quickly as possible to ensure funds are available for immediate vaccination efforts. To facilitate this, the standard procedure to process vaccine-related projects will be as follows:

- All vaccine-related projects will be written as expedited projects, with 50 percent of the total estimate awarded up front for eligible expenses and applicants.
 - Activities between Jan. 21, 2021, through Sept. 30, 2021, may be eligible for 100-percent federal cost share.
- The project should be written in a 30-, 60- or 90-day operational period. No project will be written for more than a 90-day operational period.
- If the cost is based on per-person vaccination rates as a percentage of population:
 - The project can be written to cover up to 36 percent of the jurisdiction's population
 - Per-dose costs will be based on either:
 - The CRC-developed unit costs OR
 - Costs provided by the applicant, up to the estimates developed by the CRC.
- Applicants may request a FEMA program delivery manager (PDMG) to assist with project application development. Submit requests to pa@dhs.in.gov.

More guidance documents are available on the [IDHS PA Grant Program website](#) under "Recent Updates."

Requests for Public Assistance

Organizations that have not yet submitted a request for public assistance form may still do so in the FEMA Grants Portal for this declaration, DR4515.

Below is the five-page guide from FEMA to walk an applicant through the submission of the RPA and creating their own account in the Grants Portal. Potential applicants who have NOT submitted an RPA, please go in to the link provided in the guide book and submit now.

[How to Submit a Request for Public Assistance](#)

Recent announcements from FEMA will be changing the overall reimbursement guidance for Public Assistance related to DR4515. As more information becomes available, IDHS will continue to provide updates.

Additionally, there's never a one-size-fits-all approach to Public Assistance - if you have questions or concerns, or project-specific circumstances that don't fit into this approach, reach out to your state PA Program coordinators at pa@dhs.in.gov.