



FEMA

September 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators
FEMA Regions I – X

ATTENTION: Regional Recovery Division Directors

FROM: Keith Turi 
Assistant Administrator
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: Issuance of *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) Policy (Version 2)*

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue the attached *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) Policy (Version 2) (FP-104-21-0003)* (Safe Opening and Operation Interim Policy). Version 2 of the Safe Opening and Operation Interim Policy retroactively amends the applicable time period of eligibility to the beginning of the incident period and specifies that work conducted from the beginning of the incident period to December 31, 2021 will be reimbursed at a federal cost share of 100 percent. Work conducted after December 31, 2021 will be subject to the cost share established at that time.

On April 5, 2021, FEMA issued Version 1 of the Safe Opening and Operation Interim Policy in response to direction received in two Presidential memoranda.¹ These memoranda directed FEMA to expand eligibility under COVID-19 disaster declarations to all Public Assistance (PA) eligible applicants for work conducted to safely open and operate their eligible facilities. Version 1 established that work would only be eligible from January 21, 2021 through September 30, 2021, as authorized by the memoranda. Since the issuance of Version 1, FEMA has received significant support from stakeholders to amend the applicable time period of assistance covered under the policy to the beginning of the incident period.

On August 17, 2021, the President issued the “Memorandum on Maximizing Assistance to Respond to COVID-19,”² which directed FEMA to “provide a 100 percent Federal cost share for all work eligible for assistance under Public Assistance Category B, pursuant to sections 403 (42 U.S.C. 5170b), 502 (42 U.S.C. 5192), and 503 (42 U.S.C. 5193) of the Stafford Act, including work described in section 3(a) of the Presidential Memorandum of January 21, 2021.

¹ [Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors’ Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States](#) (January 21, 2021) AND [Memorandum on Maximizing Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (February 2, 2021)

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/17/memorandum-on-maximizing-assistance-to-respond-to-covid-19/>

Based on new guidance from the White House and feedback from stakeholders, FEMA is issuing Version 2 of the Safe Opening and Operation Interim Policy to:

- 1) Revise the applicable time period of eligibility and allow PA to reimburse eligible costs for work performed on or after the beginning of the incident period until FEMA issues an end to the period of performance, and
- 2) Clarify that FEMA will reimburse eligible work at a federal cost share of 100 percent from the beginning of the incident period through December 31, 2021. Costs for work conducted after December 31, 2021 will be subject to the cost share established at that time.

Version 2 of the interim policy maintains the same scope of work as Version 1. This includes: COVID-19 diagnostic testing, purchase and distribution of face masks, cleaning and disinfection, screening and temperature scanning, and installation of temporary physical barriers and signage to support social distancing.

As with all FEMA policies, ensuring an equitable pandemic response remains a priority and Recipients and Subrecipients must focus their efforts on the highest-risk communities and underserved populations.

If you have any questions on the contents of this policy, please contact Ana Montero, Director, Public Assistance Division at ana.montero@fema.dhs.gov.

Attachment