



FEMA Confirms Funding Available for COVID-19 Testing, Treatment and Vaccination of Uninsured Patients

March 29, 2022

During the March 21 briefing from FEMA representatives hosted by our firm, we asked whether FEMA could reimburse providers for testing, treating, and vaccinating the uninsured since HRSA's Provider Relief Fund (PRF) would stop accepting claims for testing and treating on March 22 and would stop accepting claims for vaccinations on April 5. The response was ambiguous, so we sought further clarification from FEMA and raised the question with several Congressional offices.

FEMA has confirmed that funding is available to reimburse providers for COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination of uninsured patients. The process for applying for Public Assistance is outlined in the FEMA documents below.

At our request, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) raised the following questions with FEMA. FEMA's responses are in bold:

1. May private, non-profit (PNP) organizations that own and operate medical facilities apply for Public Assistance under FEMA's Medical Care Policy to cover the unreimbursed costs for providing clinical care for COVID-19 to uninsured patients when those costs are not reimbursed from another source, including HRSA's Provider Relief Fund? Clinical care refers to medical treatment of individual patients including diagnostic testing, diagnosis, treatment, hospitalization, prescriptions and other costs association with individual patient treatment that would typically be billed to patients, their insurance carriers, Medicare, Medicaid or other pre-existing payment arrangements.

Yes, [click [here](#) for] a recent advisory on Federal Support to Combat COVID-19 and [click [here](#) for] FEMA's interim policy on COVID-19 medical care eligible for Public Assistance (PA) for additional information.

Note that the last document says funding is available through April 1, 2022; FEMA confirmed during the briefing and in correspondence with Sen. Manchin's office that the funding has been extended to July 1, 2022.

2. If so, what is the process to apply for such funding?

All entities can apply for FEMA funding through the [COVID-19 Public Assistance Simplified Application](#). Applicants can begin their application by contacting their

local, state, tribal nation and territorial emergency management office or visiting grantee.fema.gov.

3. How much funding remains available for FEMA's Medical Care Policy commitments?

Funding to reimburse eligible Public Assistance activities comes from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). The DRF balance as of March 24, 2022:

- a. Majors – \$28.1 billion
- b. Base - \$3.8 billion

Since the Administration and Congress have yet to reach a deal on additional COVID-19 funding that would permit HRSA's Provider Relief Fund to resume reimbursement for uninsured patients, applying for FEMA's Public Assistance appears to be the best opportunity for being reimbursed for these claims.

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