



Additional FEMA Resources for Hospitals Battling COVID-19

January 11, 2022

In late December, the White House announced that additional resources from the Department of Defense and FEMA would be made available to help communities and hospitals battle Omicron. Click [here](#) for the White House Fact Sheet.

Below is a summary of the information from FEMA addressing two categories: 1) healthcare facility expansion and 2) resources for surge staffing, expanding hospital capacity, testing and vaccinations. We will provide any additional relevant information as soon as it becomes available.

Healthcare Facility Expansion

Click [here](#) for the Healthcare Facility Expansion Assistance Playbook dated December 2021. It outlines the process for how regional FEMA and HHS offices will work with state and local governments to support healthcare facility expansion.

- Regional FEMA and HHS offices will conduct initial outreach with their state, local, tribal and territorial governments (SLTT) partners to provide information to support healthcare facility expansion.
- FEMA and HHS regions receiving SLTT requests on behalf of eligible healthcare facilities to temporarily expand existing physical space will review the requests and organize resources to provide the requested technical assistance.
- Medical facilities requesting assistance are eligible as defined under It references Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Medical Care Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (Version 2) which was last updated May 17, 2021. Click [here](#).
- Healthcare facilities interested in federal assistance under the current COVID-19 Stafford Declaration should first contact their STT state health authority followed by their STT emergency management agency.
- The STTs will then submit requests to the FEMA regions to initiate the appropriate facility expansion assistance team (FEAT) visit. These visits will likely occur virtually initially.

Resources for Surge Staffing, Expanding Hospital Capacity, Testing, Vaccinations

Click [here](#) for the FEMA Advisory – Federal Support to Combat Covid-19 dated December 21, 2021. This funding is available to states, tribal nations, territories and localities and certain private non-profit organizations.

This funding may include costs for:

- Medical care for COVID-19 patients.
- Surge staffing for medical care personnel.
- Expansion of hospitals and medical facilities, such as conversion of unused or other space for clinical care.
- Establishing and operating temporary medical facilities, including lease, purchase, and construction costs.
- Mobilization and demobilization for setting up and closing temporary or expanded medical capacity.
- Operating costs, including equipment, supplies, staffing, and wraparound services.

Funding may be based on ongoing and projected needs regarding continuing operations at a temporary or expanded medical facility.

In most cases, permanent renovations are not eligible, except where the work is completed in time to meet COVID-19 capacity needs and is cost-effective. Permanent renovations are also subject to real property disposition requirements.

From the FAQs:

How soon can funding be available?

Organizations should immediately take action to save lives and protect public health and safety. If applicants have an immediate need for funding, FEMA can expedite up to 50% of funding needs for medical care and expansion in hospital capacity to eligible applicants with limited documentation required. All entities can apply for FEMA funding through the COVID-19 Public Assistance Simplified Application. Click [here](#)) Applicants can begin their application by contacting their local, state, tribal nation, and territorial emergency management office or visiting www.grantee.fema.gov.

Is there a cost-share?

FEMA will fund 100% of eligible COVID-19 costs and will not require non-federal matching funds through April 1, 2022.

Can the National Guard assist?

States may continue to utilize National Guard resources under Title 32 authorizations to support COVID-19 medical care, testing and vaccination activities. FEMA will fund 100% of National Guard costs through April 1, 2022.

How is FEMA ensuring that testing, medical care and vaccination efforts are equitable?

President Biden's Executive Order on Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery requires all states and local governments to focus the use of FEMA funding on the highest-risk communities and underserved populations. State, tribal nation, and territory recipients of FEMA funding are required to ensure that all state, tribal nation, territorial, local, and private non-profit subrecipients are adhering to applicable federal civil rights and non-discrimination laws and equity data requirements. The DHS Civil Rights Evaluation Tool provides an overview of what is required to meet civil rights requirements. Each Recipient's FEMA-State Agreement includes specific conditions related to these responsibilities. FEMA Policy 104-21-0004, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance (click [here](#)) includes specific reporting requirements for vaccination efforts.

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