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## Allowable Expenditures Under FEMA Preparedness Grants to Support Capabilities in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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**\*\*\*Sent on Behalf of Bridget Bean, Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate\*\*\***

The purpose of this notification is to inform recipients and subrecipients of allowable expenditures under FEMA preparedness grants to support capabilities in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

### **Background**

According to the CDC, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, which is thought to be spread through person-to-person contact. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The virus is thought to spread via droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or among people who are in close contact with one another.

The outbreak was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has now been detected in at least 50 locations internationally, including the United States. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

### **Programs and Eligibility**

#### **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**

The purpose of the EMPG Program is to provide federal funds to states to assist state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards. EMPG funding can be used to support emergency preparedness and response capabilities for COVID-19. Allowable activities include, but are not limited to, strengthening public health incident management and emergency operations coordination to enable jurisdictions to provide emergency management response support that exceeds normal capacity; Strengthening information management and sharing; Strengthening community recovery and resilience; Vector control and surveillance; Health surveillance and epidemiological investigation; Laboratory testing and support services; and Blood safety.

#### **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**

The HSGP includes a suite of risk-based grants, including the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), designed to assist SLTT efforts in preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to acts of terrorism.

As referenced in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#), for both SHSP and UASI many activities that support the achievement of core capabilities related to terrorism preparedness may simultaneously support enhanced preparedness for hazards unrelated to acts of terrorism. However, all SHSP- and UASI-funded projects must assist recipients and subrecipients in achieving core capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to acts of terrorism. States and high-risk urban areas must justify proposed expenditures of SHSP or UASI funds in their Investment Justification submissions.

## **Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP)**

Similar to HSGP, the THSGP assists directly eligible tribal governments with efforts related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to acts of terrorism. As referenced in the [Preparedness Grants Manual](#), activities funded under THSGP that support the achievement of core capabilities related to terrorism preparedness may simultaneously support enhanced preparedness for hazards unrelated to acts of terrorism. However, all THSGP-funded projects must assist recipients in achieving core capabilities related to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to acts of terrorism. Tribal governments must justify proposed expenditures of THSGP funds in their Investment Justification submissions.

Questions regarding the use of FEMA grant programs to support the preparedness and response capability for COVID-19 should be addressed to the assigned FEMA Regional Program Analyst or HQ Preparedness Officer, as applicable.