



FEMA

March 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators  
FEMA Regions I-X

FROM: Keith Turi  
Assistant Administrator  
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Requests for Public Assistance Deadline



On March 13, 2020, the President declared the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a nationwide emergency declaration covering all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”). Consistent with the declaration of a national emergency and due to the nature of this incident, it is necessary and appropriate to amend certain deadlines for the Public Assistance Program (44 CFR Part 206, Subpart G, Public Assistance Project Administration) on a national basis for the effective administration of the national emergency declaration and meet the needs of Recipients and Applicants across the country. This memo addresses the deadline for submission of Requests for Public Assistance for the nationwide emergency declaration and any subsequent major disaster declarations for the incident.

To apply for Public Assistance, in accordance with procedures in 44 C.F.R. §206.202(c), Recipients must send a completed RPA (FEMA Form 90-49) to the Regional Administrator, through the FEMA Grants Portal, for each Applicant who requests Public Assistance. According to the regulation, these requests must be submitted “30 days after designation of the area where damage occurred.” In this case, the President’s emergency declaration designated all areas in the country on March 13, 2020.

Based on the national impacts of COVID-19, the unprecedented nature of the national emergency declaration, the number of potential Public Assistance Applicants, and the fact that these Applicants are actively engaged in life saving operations, enforcing the 30-day deadline is not appropriate. It would also not be appropriate to require each affected state, territory, and tribe to formally request an extension and to have each Regional Administrator individually respond while all parties are focused on response operations. Therefore, the Request for Public Assistance deadline is nationally extended and will remain open for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, as declared by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, unless an earlier deadline is deemed appropriate by the Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate. At that time, the Regional Administrator, pursuant to 44 CFR 206.202(f)(2), may extend the time limitations in 44 CFR 206.202(c). FEMA will accept RPAs for 30 days after the end of the declaration of the Public Health Emergency and provide 30-day advance notification if an earlier deadline is established or further extended by a Regional Administrator.

If you have any questions, please contact Traci Brasher, Director (Acting), Public Assistance Division at [traci.brasher@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:traci.brasher@fema.dhs.gov).