

Evacuation and Sheltering Assistance under an Emergency Declaration

An incident may threaten a level of damage that could result in a major disaster declaration based upon anticipated or forecasted impacts. As warranted by the conditions of such an incident, FEMA may authorize grant funding under its Public Assistance Program for evacuation and sheltering activities in states, Tribal Nations, local governments and territories under an emergency declaration for an imminent or pre-landfall incident. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to describe eligible evacuation and sheltering costs for those emergency declarations in which grant reimbursement is authorized for Public Assistance Category B emergency protective measures for mass care including evacuation and shelter support.

Evacuation and Sheltering Costs

Eligible costs are outlined in the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(PAPPG\) \(Version 4\)](#) and the approval of these costs is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the needs of the incident and may include:

▪ Evacuation Support:

- Transportation to evacuate and return survivors (often referred to as re-entry), household pets, service animals, assistance animals, luggage, and durable medical equipment is eligible, as is emergency medical transportation.

▪ Sheltering

- **Congregate Sheltering** – includes costs related to facilities, staff, supplies and commodities, and shelter services.
 - **Host State/Tribe Sheltering** – is limited to congregate sheltering, unless pre-approved by FEMA headquarters (HQ)
- **Non-congregate Sheltering** – When warranted and pursuant to guidance regarding non-congregate sheltering (NCS) in environments such as hotels, motels, dormitories, retreat camps may be eligible. Reference the PAPPG, Version 4 and the [Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering](#) memo.
 - NCS using methods or facilities other than hotels, motels, dormitories, retreat camps are considered non-traditional (e.g., recreational vehicles or short-term rentals) and require prior approval from FEMA HQ.
- Note: Childcare services may be eligible for the sheltered population for a limited time.



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- **Other Emergency Protective Measures which may be needed to support Evacuation and Sheltering**
 - **Pre-positioning of resources** – Costs for the pre-positioning or movement of equipment, supplies, or resources to execute evacuation, provide the delivery of emergency medical care during the evacuation, or support for sheltering operations, provided the resources were ultimately used in the performance of eligible emergency work.
 - **Emergency Supplies and Commodities** – Costs for purchasing supplies or using stock to conduct sheltering and evacuation activities.
 - **Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)** – Costs associated with operating the EOC are eligible when necessary to conduct sheltering and evacuation activities, including increased utility costs; costs to lease a facility; supply costs; and meals.
 - **Security** – Eligible emergency protective measures and costs include security necessary to conduct evacuation and sheltering activities, activities such as: barricading, fencing, patrolling to secure evacuated areas, security presence at evacuation embarkation / debarkation sites, and/or shelter facilities.
 - **Law Enforcement** – Overtime costs related to evacuation activities may be eligible. Law Enforcement activities may include supporting activities for security, and organized re-entry, or monitoring and enforcing curfews in the affected area.
 - **Emergency Communications** – Dissemination of information to the public to provide warnings and guidance on sheltering and evacuation activities.
 - **Infectious Diseases:** For congregate shelters only, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) for Infectious Diseases that may be:
 - Transmitted to other individuals (e.g., congregate shelter residents or staff) and
 - Represent a significant threat of serious illness that could be life-threatening, e.g., SARS-COV-2 (commonly known as COVID-19), Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV) and/or require acute medical care if caught.

Additional Information

For more information, visit the following websites:

1. [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(Version 4\)](#)
See PAPPG V4, Chapter 7: Emergency Work Eligibility
2. [FEMA Memorandum “Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering,” June 28, 2022.](#)