




FEMA

May 14, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators
FEMA Regions I-X

FROM: Keith Turi 
Assistant Administrator
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Damage Identification 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 follows up on my March 21, 2020, memo addressing the deadline for Requests for Public Assistance. This memo addresses the 60-day deadline to identify and report damage for the nationwide emergency declaration and all subsequent major disaster declarations for the incident.

As stipulated in 44 CFR § 206.202(d)(1)(ii), an Applicant has 60 days from its first substantive meeting with FEMA (typically the Recovery Scoping Meeting) to identify and report damage to FEMA. For COVID-19 declarations, some Applicants will begin to reach the deadlines in late May. Due to the unprecedented number of Applicants for the COVID-19 declarations and changes FEMA has made to streamline the Public Assistance application process, it is not feasible to conduct Recovery Scoping Meetings with each Applicant without significantly delaying the provision of federal assistance.

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 still actively engaged in life-saving operations, enforcing the 60-day deadline at this time is not appropriate. Therefore, the deadline to identify and report damage is extended for the national emergency declaration and all subsequent major disaster declarations for the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 of the Recovery Directorate. As such, Applicants must identify and report

damage by either: 60-days from the end of the Public Health Emergency or 60-days from the approval of their Request for Public Assistance, whichever is later. At that time, the Regional Administrator, pursuant to 44 CFR 206.202(f)(2), may extend the time limitations in 44 CFR 206.202(d)(1)(ii).

For all COVID-19 declarations, Applicants must identify and report damage by submitting streamlined project applications to FEMA. Once the deadline has passed for an Applicant, FEMA will no longer accept new project applications, and FEMA and the Recipient will only proceed with developing subawards for the applications submitted.

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