FEMA Advisory

FEMA Lifts Immediate Needs Funding (INF) Restrictions

The Continuing Resolution signed on Sept. 26th gives FEMA access to enough funding to lift Immediate Needs Funding (INF) on Oct. 1st.

On Aug. 7, FEMA implemented INF restrictions to preserve critical resources necessary for lifesaving and life-sustaining activities against a rapidly depleting Disaster Relief Fund balance. This guidance allowed the agency to prioritize ongoing disaster operations and preserve funding for initial response and recovery activities for any new incidents. Under INF, new obligations for non-lifesaving and life-sustaining activities were paused so FEMA could continue its focus on response and urgent recovery efforts, such as response to Hurricane Helene, without interruption.

The Continuing Resolution gives FEMA access to $20 billion. Lifting INF allows FEMA to begin processing obligations of approximately $9 billion for over 3,000 paused projects. Delayed projects will be processed as quickly as possible. FEMA estimates that all INF delayed projects will be funded within the next several weeks.

Funding these projects helps communities, schools, and hospitals across the nation recover from and mitigate against disasters. These projects are critical to our nation's resilience. However, FEMA must always prioritize resources for a new catastrophic disaster and ensure the agency maintains the ability to address lifesaving and life sustaining resources to support survivors and communities. Due to the uncertainty of receiving additional funding, and if current spending rates hold, the agency projects it will reimplement INF before the end of the calendar year.

In addition, on Aug. 29, 2024, FEMA announced that COVID-19 project closeout deadlines would be extended until 90 days after the lifting of INF. All small projects, which are those with a total cost under $1 million (regardless of when they were obligated), as well as large projects obligated as of May 6, 2024, will now have until Dec. 30, 2024, to submit their closeout documentation. The deadline for large projects obligated after May 6,2024 remains unchanged, March 1, 2025.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

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- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
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