



## **Iowa COVID-19 Local Government Relief Fund**

Governor Kim Reynolds has allocated \$125 million for reimbursements to local governments for direct expenses incurred in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

\$100 million for reimbursement will be divided between eligible cities and counties by 2019 estimated population. \$25 million will be used to cover the local government portion of the FEMA match through the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Consistent with the U.S. Treasury Department Guidance, funds may only be used to cover costs that:

- A. Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
- B. Were not accounted for in the government entity's budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020;
- C. Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020; and
- D. Have not been reimbursed or where reimbursement has not been requested from another source of funds including, but not limited to, other federal programs.

The State of Iowa has entered into a contract with a third party accounting firm to manage the process to request reimbursement and process payments.

### **Necessary Expenditures Include the Acquisition and Distribution of:**

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Sanitizing Products
- Testing Equipment and Supplies (test kits)
- Ventilators
- Other necessary COVID-19 Medical Supplies and Equipment

### **Other related necessary expenditures:**

- Temporary Isolation or Quarantine Sites
- Medical Transportation
- Expenses for Sanitizing Public Areas and other Public Facilities
- Temporary Emergency Staffing and overtime costs for staff that is substantially dedicated to the mitigation or response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- Payroll costs for public health and public safety employees for services dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
  - As a matter of administrative convenience in light of the emergency nature of this program, local governments may presume that 25% payroll costs for public health employees and 25% of payroll costs for public safety employees are payments for services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Equipment used for the conduct of meetings by telephonic or electronic means
- Software or technology infrastructure to allow for local services to be provided while social distancing
- Additional costs associated with enhanced 211 capabilities

### **Process for Requesting Reimbursement of Qualified Expenses**

A web-based process will be available to submit requests and upload supporting documentation and records.

To be eligible, a local government will need to pass a resolution from the governing body stating that all reimbursements submitted follow the Federal and State of Iowa guidance on how the funds should be spent, and that if the funds are misrepresented, the local government will be liable for repayment and any applicable penalty and interest.

Initial claims shall be for costs incurred between March 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020. Those claims shall be submitted by September 15, 2020. Expenses incurred August 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020 need to be submitted by October 1, 2020. Claims for reimbursement must include documentation of the incurred expense, such as invoices, payroll records, and or any other records as needed.

The state will review all submissions for completeness and accuracy, and then approve for reimbursement up to the allocated amount for each locality.

A local government must first submit reimbursement to FEMA for eligible items before requesting from the State. An item cannot be reimbursed by both FEMA and the State.

## **FEMA Public Assistance Requests**

In order to maximize funding, local governments must agree to seek U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement through the Public Assistance (PA) program for eligible expenditures. Local governments should work with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) to submit an application to the PA Program.

FEMA guidance indicates the following items would qualify:

- Personal protective equipment
- Sanitizing products
- Necessary medical supplies and equipment
- Temporary emergency staffing and overtime costs for staff that is substantially dedicated to the mitigation or response to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency

Once a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form has been submitted and approved by FEMA, local entities can submit a project worksheet, through the FEMA Grants Portal, for eligible costs associated with the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency along with documentation supporting the claimed costs. FEMA will review the submitted request for assistance/costs and supporting documentation and determine if any additional information is needed and make eligibility determinations. Once the project and costs are deemed to be eligible by FEMA, the project will be obligated/awarded by FEMA. There is a 75% Federal / 25% local cost share associated with the FEMA Public Assistance Projects and the state will pick up the 25% local cost share from the \$25 million set aside.