

Florida Division of Emergency Management Information Messages on Food Banks and Telecommuting Reimbursements

Question: Are the costs incurred by food banks for buying and distributing food for COVID-19 eligible for reimbursement from FEMA PA?

Answer: Not directly. The FEMA Public Assistance Program cannot reimburse food banks directly for the costs of buying and distributing food, because these activities are not PA eligible emergency protective measures for PNP food banks. However, SLTT governments may enter into formal agreements or contracts with food banks to provide necessary food commodities. FEMA PA may provide funding to a SLTT government for the cost of providing necessary food commodities through food banks, through a formal agreement or contract, when food security has been impacted and food distribution is necessary to protect public health and safety. Indicators of negative food security impacts include documented decreases of in-kind donations to food banks; reduced mobility of those in need due to government imposed restrictions; marked increase or atypical demand for feeding resources; or disruptions to the typical food supply chain within the relevant jurisdiction. In order to address immediate needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA may approve funding to the SLTT for an initial 30 days, notwithstanding that another federal agency may have funding for this activity. FEMA Regions will re-assess before the end of the 30 days and may grant another 30-day extension as warranted. FEMA cannot duplicate funding provided by another source, and will reconcile final funding based on any funding provided by another agency for the same costs. Foodbanks may not seek direct cost reimbursement from the FEMA Public Assistance program.

frederick.dickinson@em.myflorida.com

Telecommuting

The purchase of computers, laptops, internet service, and other related expenses is not eligible as an emergency protective measure. These purchases would be considered increased operating costs which are not eligible for public entities unless the additional cost is specifically related to eligible emergency actions to save lives or protect public health and safety or improved property. For PNP Applicants, increased operating costs are generally ineligible even if the facility is providing an emergency service, unless doing so on behalf of and at the direction of the legally responsible government entity. In such cases, PA funding is provided through that government entity as the eligible Applicant.

Questions should be directed to: frederick.dickinson@em.myflorida.com 8508154447