



FEMA

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Finkenauer:

Thank you for your letter from April 2, 2020 in which you were requesting an overview of the resources distributed to the State of Iowa for emergency assistance to address the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus.

Since **mid-March**, the federal government has shipped essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and emergency medical supplies to the state of Iowa in these three ways:

- 1) **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS):** The national stockpile is maintained by The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Stockpile disbursements of equipment and supplies were allocated by HHS based on pro-rata population, according to the 2010 Census. Iowa's allocation was sent in three shipments throughout March in the following quantities: approximately 283,000 surgical masks, 261,000 pairs of gloves, 119,000 N95 respirators, 47,000 surgical gowns, 58,000 face shields and 1,900 coveralls.
- 2) **Project Air Bridge:** FEMA has facilitated disbursement of additional PPE through its Project Air Bridge operation. Project Air Bridge was created to fast-track the delivery of PPE from international markets directly to U.S. medical supply distributors for disbursement to their respective customers. FEMA covers the cost to fly supplies from overseas factories, reducing the customary shipping time of weeks to just days. During the **first two weeks of April**, millions of pieces of PPE were provided through Project Air Bridge directly to medical/hospital facilities within Iowa: 57,800 N-95 masks, 782,800 surgical & procedural masks, 15,300 eye & face shields, 360,900 isolation & surgical gowns, and 18.2 million surgical & exam gloves.
- 3) **FEMA:** Since April 1, FEMA has shipped an additional **32,300** pieces of PPE and emergency medical supplies to Iowa to fulfill requests directly from the state, and to disburse donations for Iowa. Fulfillment of these requests is continuing.

The FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program provides grants to state and local governments, tribal nations and certain non-profit entities to assist with eligible costs associated with responding to and recovering from disasters. As part of the Major Presidential Disaster Declaration for Iowa declared on March 26 (<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4483>), Category B of the FEMA PA Program was authorized. This allows eligible entities to apply for reimbursement of certain costs associated with taking emergency protective measures. This includes such things as buying medical supplies, establishing temporary medical facilities used to treat patients, and some labor costs for temporary medical personnel. The below are the most updated amounts of PA funding to Iowa:

On April 4, FEMA awarded a \$44 million grant to the State of Iowa to reimburse eligible purchases of PPE such as isolation gowns, masks, face shields, safety glasses and gloves, medical supplies, and equipment to assist hospitals, medical clinics, city and county governments, and certain private-non-profits across the state.

On April 28, FEMA obligated an additional \$4 million PA grant to the State of Iowa to help reimburse eligible State Management Costs the state has incurred as a result of its COVID-19 response.

Additionally, the State of Iowa was approved for federally funded activation of National Guard personnel to support state-level COVID-19 efforts. This type of activation is known as “Title 32”, the action means that the federal government pays 100 percent of the National Guard costs for a maximum of 30 days, saving money that the states would ordinarily have to pay. This week, FEMA approved the state’s request to extend the National Guard activation until May 31, 2020.

To date, the State of Iowa has already received **at least \$17 million** from FEMA towards the state’s Title 32 costs.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant-Supplemental (EMPG-S) is a grant program that assists states, territories, tribes and local governments with their public health and emergency management activities supporting the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Iowa has been awarded **\$1.3 million** through this grant.

Also, on April 30, the Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Iowa (FEMA-4483-DR-IA) was amended to include Individual Assistance limited to the Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) for all areas in the State of Iowa.

The mission of the CCP is to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the psychological effects of natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and educational services.

I hope you find this information helpful. Should you have additional questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Region VII’s Congressional Affairs point of contact, Luis Zenteno at 202-875-3473.

Sincerely,

Paul Taylor
FEMA Region 7, Regional Administrator