



COLORADO

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Department of Public Safety

March 14, 2020

Dear Colorado Emergency Managers:

First let me thank you for all the hard work you're doing to keep your community and all of Colorado prepared and safe during these turbulent times.

On Wednesday, March 11th Governor Polis provided leadership in issuing a State Emergency Declaration to prepare and protect Coloradoans which directed Colorado DHSEM and Colorado CDPHE to proactively respond to the COVID-19 threat.

On Friday, March 13th the President approved an Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 and directed FEMA to provide assistance to help with the costs not otherwise covered by HHS in responding to this national crisis. I am working to make sure that FEMA assistance will help Colorado communities in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

I want to assure you that I am in contact with the FEMA Region VIII Regional Administrator on a regular basis and working with him and his staff on how this Emergency Declaration will support our State agencies, Tribal nations, counties, local governments, non-profits, and faith based institutions in responding to COVID-19.

FEMA is diligently working to provide specific rules pertaining to eligible entities, expenses, and reimbursement procedures. Colorado DHSEM will be the administrative agency in charge of dispersing funds to eligible entities from FEMA. Keep in mind that a few rules codified in federal regulation apply to a Stafford Act declaration. We expect the following to be applicable to this declaration unless further guidance is received from FEMA.

- All costs will be reviewed by the state and FEMA to determine reasonable and fair competition.
- Federal procurement rules will apply even in emergency circumstances and our staff will work with FEMA to determine the specifics.
- Documentation of expenses will be paramount in successfully receiving reimbursement.

Two fact sheets pertaining to documentation requirements and procurement will be available from the Regional Field Managers (RFMs). I suggest your agency reviews these rules as an initial step.



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700 Kipling Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 | Colorado.gov/publicsafety
Jared Polis, Governor | Stan Hilkey, Executive Director

Colorado DHSEM is planning a series of regionally based information sessions, fact sheets, and webinars that will be able to answer questions and provide a process as soon as FEMA has provided us with final guidance. This is a unique time and set of circumstances, but with patience and teamwork I'm confident we will make it through this crisis.

In the meantime, if you have immediate questions, your Regional Field Manager will have the latest information and be able to help.

We'll see you out there.

Mike



Michael Willis
Director, Colorado Office of Emergency Management
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

