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**TO:** IOWA EXTENSION COUNCIL ASSOCIATION

**FROM:** KAY OSKVIK, WHITFIELD & EDDY LAW

**RE:** FEMA GRANT APPLICATIONS – Q&A

**DATE:** MAY 2021

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Below is a summary of questions we asked FEMA (Region 7 Office) and their answers.

- 1. What are the steps needed to go through in order to get assistance?**
  - a. First step is to submit a request (application) for public assistance.
  - b. Second step is that state would sign off on the public assistance.
  - c. Third Step is working through with applicant to determine what they need.
    - i. FEMA Regional Office will consider setting up a call (Zoom or call) and talking with the applicant prior to the application submission if the applicant has specific questions that need to be addressed.
- 2. Is IECA eligible to apply?**
  - a. Councils should review the Public Assistance Policy Program and Guidance page 10-14 to determine whether their activities during 2020-2021 may be eligible for assistance.
- 3. What is the deadline for filing?**
  - a. There is no set date at this time.
- 4. What are the eligible activities?**
  - a. Some Examples:
    - i. If the entity paid out cost for PPE and it was purchased last year and it was to provide PPE for an eligible entity, then FEMA would cover it.
    - ii. Setting up a vaccination clinic would be another eligible activity that is covered.
  - b. Eligibility is more about the emergency protective measures for COVID, for example, if a non-profit had a building where they could help the public and if people came to that building, then COVID-19-related expenses would potentially be eligible for assistance.
- 5. Are funds provided first come, first serve or on a rolling basis?**
  - a. Public assistance is a reimbursable grant (it is not first come first serve).
- 6. When and how are applications evaluated?**
  - a. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis after submitting of an application.
  - b. FEMA reviews what is submitted by applicants based on the work that is/was performed.
  - c. There are over 2,000 applications to date.
- 7. How is funding allocated?**
  - a. Funding and eligibility are provided through the state and so they don't go directly through the local applicant.