

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COVID-19 EQUIPMENT POLICIES

BULLETIN #11 – 4/2/20

1. Applicant (Force Account) Equipment and Purchased Equipment

FEMA provides PA funding for the use of Applicant-owned equipment (force account equipment), including permanently mounted generators, based on hourly rates. FEMA may provide PA funding based on mileage for vehicles, if the mileage is documented and is less costly than hourly rates.

There are instances when an Applicant does not have sufficient equipment to effectively respond to an incident. If the Applicant purchases equipment that it justifiably needs to respond effectively to the incident, FEMA provides PA funding both for the purchase price and either:

- The use of equipment based on equipment rates (without the ownership and depreciation components); or
- The actual fuel and maintenance costs.

FEMA only applies equipment rates to the time the Applicant is actually operating equipment. Although costs associated with mobilizing equipment to a project site are eligible, costs for standby time (time spent on hold or in reverse) are not eligible unless the equipment operator uses the equipment intermittently for more than half of the working hours for a given day. In this case the intermittent standby time is eligible.

FEMA provides PA funding for force account equipment usage based on FEMA, State, Territorial, Tribal, or local equipment rates in accordance specific criteria outlined in the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG).

2. Rented/Leased Equipment

When the Applicant leases equipment, FEMA provides PA funding based on the terms of the lease. Leasing costs are eligible if:

- The Applicant performed an analysis of the cost of leasing versus purchasing the equipment; and
- The total leasing costs do not exceed the cost of purchasing and maintaining equipment during the life of the eligible project.

If the leasing costs exceed the cost of purchasing and maintaining the equipment, FEMA determines the amount of eligible costs based on an evaluation of the reasonableness of the costs claimed, including whether the Applicant acted with prudence under the circumstances at the time it leased the equipment.

If the Applicant has a lease-purchase agreement and obtains ownership during completion of eligible work, FEMA provides PA funding for the equipment use based on the hourly equipment rate.

If the Applicant has a lease-purchase agreement and completes the eligible work prior to obtaining ownership, FEMA provides PA funding based on the cost to lease the equipment.

3. Disposition of Purchased Equipment and Supplies

The following describes disposition requirements when purchased equipment or supplies (including materials) are no longer needed for federally funded projects.

In the context of disposition, equipment is any tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than 1 year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the Applicant for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000. Tangibly personal property that does not fall under this definition is a supply. When the equipment or supplies purchased with PA funding are no longer needed for response to or recovery from the incident, the Applicant may use the items for other federally funded programs or projects, provided the Applicant informs FEMA.

4. Disposition of Purchased Equipment

In accordance with Federal regulations, State and Territorial government Applicants dispose of equipment in accordance with State or Territorial laws and procedures.

Tribal and local governments and PNPs must calculate the current fair market value of each individual item of equipment. The Applicant must provide the current fair market for any items that have a current fair market value of \$5,000 or more. FEMA reduces eligible funding by this amount.

If an individual item of equipment has a current fair market value less than \$5,000, FEMA does not reduce the eligible funding.

References:

- [FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)

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Thank you!