



FEMA

July 1, 2020

Mr. Ryan Buras
Deputy Director, Recovery
Governor's Authorized Representative
California Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, California 95655

Re: Request for a Time Extension for Approval of Non-Congregate Sheltering
FEMA-4482-DR-CA(COVID-19)

Dear Mr. Buras:

This is in response to your letter dated June 26, 2020, requesting that FEMA approve Public Assistance (PA) funding through December 31, 2020, for costs related to emergency, non-congregate sheltering (NCS) provided to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, who have been exposed to COVID-19 (which group is deemed to include front-line responders), or are at "high risk" for COVID-19 (in other words, people aged 65 or older or have underlying medical conditions as defined by the CDC) and require NCS as a social distancing measure.

Based on my review of your request and supporting information, including the State Public Health Officer's confirmation of the continued need for NCS dated June 25, 2020 I am partially approving your request to extend the period of time for FEMA reimbursement of costs related to Emergency NCS. I note that the authority delegated to me by the Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate, to approve NCS in response to COVID-19 is limited to 30-day increments. Accordingly, my approval of your NCS extension request is limited to a 30-day period, beginning on July 1 and ending on July 30, 2020, unless the public health emergency should sooner terminate, which may be evidenced by, among other things, the termination or lifting of the declaration of a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Nationwide Emergency Declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020, as a result of COVID-19.

My approval of this time extension and the eligibility criteria applicable to costs associated with NCS remain subject to the same terms, conditions, and limitations set forth in my initial letter approving PA funding for eligible NCS costs incurred by the State of California dated March 27, 2020, my initial letter approving PA funding for eligible costs incurred by local NCS providers dated April 2, 2020, and my most recent letters approving NCS extensions for health care workers and non-healthcare workers, each of which is dated June 1, 2020 (CA NCS Approval Letters).

Once again, I want to make clear that my approval does not include asymptomatic individuals whose living situation may make them unable to adhere to social distancing guidance and is limited to reimbursement of Emergency NCS costs only for the three approved population groups identified in the CA NCS Approval Letters. In this regard, I note that your letter indicates average lengths of stay ranging from 14 to 60 days, which is an extremely wide range, of dates and the high-end appears to be excessive for the limited purposes for which I have approved reimbursement of eligible NCS costs.

Please understand and ensure that the local providers understand that the number of NCS units eligible for reimbursement will be based on FEMA policy regarding the prudent pre-positioning of resources based on data available to the State or local provider when NCS units were first acquired and on the date of any extension request.

Thank you for emphasizing to the local providers the importance of maintaining effective tracking mechanisms to provide sufficient data and documentation to establish the eligibility of NCS costs (including, wrap-around services) for which they intend to request PA funding. As with any activity, lack of sufficient support documentation may result in FEMA determining that some or all of the costs claimed are ineligible.

Please note that any future NCS time extension requests must be received by my office no later than seven days prior to the expiration date of the then-approved sheltering period - in this case, no later than July 23, 2020.

Additionally, I am enclosing a copy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's recently issued guidance, *Federal Funding Priority Order for Non-Congregate Shelter during COVID-19*, which provides federal funding information to governmental agencies and private organizations providing NCS to individuals experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 Nationwide Emergency, including, the federal funding priority of assistance and how to utilize different federal resources for the highest and best use for the operation of NCS.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (510) 627-7250.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Pesapane
Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer – COVID-19
Director, Recovery Division
FEMA Region IX

cc: Robert J. Fenton, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX
Robert Troy, COVID-19 Event Recovery Deputy FCO, FEMA Region IX
J.P. Henderson, Regional Counsel, FEMA Region IX