

Non-Congregate Sheltering – COVID19

New Jersey has received [approval](#) from FEMA to provide reimbursement for eligible sheltering alternatives, such as hotels, motels and dormitories, for residents with no other safe place to quarantine, or who need to quarantine or isolate in response to COVID-19 **The current approval is retroactive from March 18, 2020 through May 10, 2020. FEMA may extend beyond May 10, 2020, if the State can justify a continuing need.**

The following 5 categories of individuals are eligible for non-congregate sheltering:

1. Homeless individuals and families who live in congregate shelters who are symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19;
2. Homeless individuals who require quarantine or isolation due to being symptomatic or having a positive test for COVID-19;
3. Children and adults living in congregate living settings who have tested positive for COVID-19; and
4. First responders and healthcare workers who do not require hospitalization but nevertheless need to avoid direct contact with their families due to exposure to COVID- 19.
5. Other groups that may need assistance as the State continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as COVID-19 positive patients who do not require hospitalization in a traditional setting, but nevertheless require quarantine and isolation outside their residence to prevent the further spread of the virus.

Local jurisdictions and agencies that plan to use or set up non-congregate shelters and seek reimbursement will be considered sub-applicants. **Eligible** Sub-applicants for FEMA Public Assistance are as follows:

- Local Governments (Counties/municipalities)

Note: Private Non Profits (PNP) are not eligible as a stand-alone sub-applicant. PNP's must apply through an eligible County or Municipal sub applicant.

Sub-applicants **MUST:**

- register [at NJEMGrants.org](http://NJEMGrants.org)
- submit a [Request for Public Assistance](#) (RPA) through NJEMgrants.

Eligible sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to secure hotel/motel rooms and to provide necessary wrap-around services. *FEMA will pay 75 percent of the costs associated with operating the non-congregate sheltering program, assuming costs are reasonable, justified under the approval criteria outlined above and below, and properly documented.*

What data the Applicant will need to track for FEMA reimbursement:

- Need for non-congregate sheltering of each individual (What category do they fit in?);
- Length of stay (Check in and check out date); and
- All Costs (Associated costs with sheltering an individual, i.e. meals, laundry, linens, cleaning)
- Additionally, each agency, department or organization implementing a non-congregate sheltering program should be prepared to provide an estimate of the number of individuals that will require sheltering and how that number was derived.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- *Special cleaning for hotel rooms for COVID19 patients may be needed. Is this covered for reimbursement?*

Yes, this would be an eligible expense along with all other wrap around services required to shelter someone. For example, meals, laundry, linens, cleaning, etc.

- *Who is paying upfront and then seeking reimbursement for COVID19 positive citizens?*

The eligible Public Assistance applicant would be paying upfront and seeking reimbursement through the regular FEMA Public Assistance process (currently 75/25).

- *Is this 100% cost reimbursement?*

This program is currently approved through the FEMA Public Assistance Program at a **75/25** cost share.

- *Are private citizens eligible to apply for reimbursement?*

Private Citizens **ARE NOT** eligible to apply for reimbursement. Reimbursement needs to process through an eligible applicant under the FEMA Public Assistance program.

- **Are other elements, including meals, eligible for reimbursement?**

All wrap around services that go into sheltering someone is an eligible costs. For example, meals, laundry, linens, cleaning, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Cont:

- *Does the local health officer need to make the determination that non-congregate sheltering is necessary?*

No, the State Health Officer, Commissioner Persichilli, has already made this determination for the entire state. However, it would be beneficial for the County Health Departments to regurgitate the Commissioners directive to all of its constituents.

Please email lpppau@gw.njsp.org with any questions or concerns related to the FEMA Public Assistance program, non-congregate sheltering or eligible applicant and reimbursement process.