



## Joint Guidance for the Florida Fire Service Reimbursement for Sheltering of First Responders

Subsequent to the March 13, 2020, Nationwide Emergency Declaration for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recognized that non-congregate sheltering (such as hotels, motels, dormitories, etc.) may be necessary in this Public Health Emergency to protect public health.

FEMA has issued guidance, which states that non-congregate sheltering of healthcare workers and first responders who require isolation **MAY** be eligible for reimbursement under Category B of FEMA's Public Assistance Program when the following criteria is met:

1. The non-congregate sheltering must be at the direction of and documented through an official order signed by a state, local, tribal, or territorial public health official.
2. Any approval is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the public health needs of the event and should not extend beyond the duration of the Public Health Emergency.
3. Applicants must follow FEMA's Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances guidance and include a termination for convenience clause in their contracts.
4. Prior to approval, the applicant must provide an analysis of the implementation options that were considered and a justification for the option selected.
5. The funding for non-congregate sheltering to meet the needs of the Public Health Emergency cannot be duplicated by another federal agency, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
6. Applicable Environmental and Historic Preservation laws, regulations, and executive orders apply and must be adhered to as a condition of assistance.

To apply for reimbursement for non-congregant housing for fire service employees, we encourage you to utilize the guidance and forms posted in the "COVID Non-Congregate Sheltering Guidance and Templates" area of the FFCA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource page here:

<https://www.ffca.org/coronavirus-resources>