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**Subject:** Instructions to Grant Recipients Pursuing Payments in FEMA GO and ND Grants/PARS

## FEMA Grants News



FEMA



### Instructions to Grant Recipients Pursuing Payments in FEMA GO and ND Grants/PARS

FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are instituting additional reviews on all grant payments and obligations to ensure allowability in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.305. As noted in the February 28, 2025, *Message to Grant Recipients on Manual Review Process*, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is taking swift action to ensure the alignment of its grant programs with Secretary of Homeland Security Kristie Noem's direction.

These measures will ensure funds are disbursed appropriately while continuing to support and prioritize communities and disaster survivors who rely on FEMA for assistance. Once a recipient submits a payment request, FEMA will review the request. If FEMA approves a payment, it will process the payment through the respective non-disaster grant systems and inform recipients accordingly for drawdown purposes. If FEMA disapproves a payment, FEMA will inform the recipient.

#### Processing and Payment Timeline:

FEMA must comply with regulations governing payments to grant recipients. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.305. For grant recipients other than States, 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(b)(3) stipulates that FEMA is to make payments on a reimbursement basis within 30 days after receipt of the payment request, unless FEMA reasonably believes the request to be improper. For state recipients, 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(a) instructs that federal grant payments are governed by Treasury-State Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) agreements ("Treasury-State agreement") and default procedures codified at 31 C.F.R. part 205 and Treasury Financial Manual (TFM) 4A-2000, "Overall Disbursing Rules for All Federal Agencies." See 2 C.F.R. § 200.305(a).

Treasury-State agreements generally apply to "major federal assistance programs" that are governed by 31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart A and are identified in the Treasury-State agreement. 31 C.F.R. §§ 205.2, 205.6. Where a federal assistance (grant) program is not governed by subpart A, payment and funds transfers from FEMA to the state are subject to 31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B. Subpart B requires FEMA to "limit a funds transfer to a state to the minimum amounts needed by the state and must time the disbursement to be in accord with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the state in carrying out a federal assistance program or project. The timing and amount of funds transfers must be as close as is administratively feasible to a state's actual cash outlay for direct program costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs." 31 C.F.R. § 205.33(a). Nothing in 31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B or the Treasury Financial Manual (TFM) 4A-2000 prohibits FEMA's manual review process. Nearly all FEMA grants are not "major federal assistance programs." As a result, payments to states for those grants are subject to the "default" rules of 31 C.F.R. part 205, subpart B.

If additional information is needed, a request for information will be issued by FEMA to the recipient; recipients are strongly encouraged to respond to any additional FEMA request for information inquiries within three business days. If an adequate response is not received, the request may be denied, and the entity may need to submit a new reimbursement request; this will re-start the 30-day timeline.

### **Submission Process**

All non-disaster grant program reimbursement requests must be reviewed and approved by FEMA prior to drawdowns.

For all non-disaster reimbursement requests (regardless of system), please ensure submittal of the following information:

1. Grant ID / Award Number
2. Total amount requested for drawdown
3. Purpose of drawdown and timeframe covered (must be within the award performance period)
4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Funding Details (if applicable).
  - Is funding provided directly or indirectly to an NGO?
    - If **no**, include statement “This grant funding is not being directed to NGOs.”
  - If **yes**, provide the following details:
    1. The name, mission statement, and purpose of each NGO receiving funds, along with the amount allocated and the specific role or activity being reimbursed.
    2. Whether the NGO’s work or mission involves supporting aliens, regardless of whether FEMA funds support such activities.
    3. Whether the payment request includes an activity involving support to aliens?
5. Supporting documentation to demonstrate that expenses are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary under 2 CFR Part 200 and in compliance with the grant’s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), award terms, and applicable federal regulations.

In some cases, additional supporting documentation may be required (if not already stipulated in the NOFO and/or award Terms and Conditions). Additional documentation could include:

- Invoices
- Purchase Orders – Supporting documentation for procured goods/services
- Evidence that the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement is current (if applicable)

If required, additional documentation would be submitted through the respective grants system (ND Grants or FEMA GO). Please coordinate with your FEMA program officer for more guidance.

For non-disaster grant programs, FEMA uses two different systems; each system requires different processes. More recent grant awards are managed (including payments) through the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) system. Older/legacy awards are managed in the Non-disaster Grants (ND Grants) System; ND Grants payments are facilitated through the separate Payment and Reporting System (PARS).

### **FEMA GO**

#### **FEMA GO Steps to Submit Payment Requests for active grant awards – Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) User Role**

The following guide provides instructions for FEMA GO external users to log-in, navigate the system, complete a request for payment, and view the request or FEMA decision. Once the grantee submits the payment request in FEMA GO it will contain the amount requested. The payment is then reviewed and approved/denied/returned by FEMA. If payment is approved, it is sent to the financial processing system to be processed by Treasury. Once processed, FEMA GO will notify the grantee of the final decision via email through the FEMA GO system and a copy of the email will be saved in the Grant File in the FEMA GO System. If FEMA disapproves a payment, FEMA will inform recipient. Please use the guide to submit the required information as noted under “Submission Process” above.

- [FEMA GO Request for Payment Guide](#)

For assistance, please contact the FEMA GO Help Desk, Monday-Friday | 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. E.T. | 1-877-585-3242 | [FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov)

### **ND Grants/PARS**

#### **Steps to Submit Payment Requests**

Historically, grant recipients whose awards were located in ND Grants visit PARS to draw down for reimbursement. Given the manual review process underway, **grant**

**recipients must now submit a narrative amendment first in ND Grants.** FEMA will review the narrative amendment and communicate approval status back to the recipient. If approved, the recipient will be instructed to draw down their approved monetary amount from PARS. If FEMA disapproves a payment, FEMA will inform recipient.

The following guide – [ND Grants Creating Narrative Only Amendment](#) - provides instructions for grant recipients to submit payment requests via a narrative amendment approach in ND Grants.

For system assistance, please contact the ND Grants Service Desk. For programmatic or grants management questions, please contact your Program Manager or Grants Specialist, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. E.T. at 1-800-865-4076 or by email at [NDGrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:NDGrants@fema.dhs.gov).

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