



FEMA

DATE: August 29, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators
Regions I-X

ATTENTION: Regional Recovery Division Directors

FROM: William C. Hagmaier
Assistant Administrator
Recovery Directorate

SUBJECT: INF Public Assistance Extension of Closeout Submission Deadlines
for COVID-19 Projects

Since 2020, the FEMA Public Assistance program has obligated \$81.5 billion to more than 14,700 applicants to help communities with the costs associated with COVID-19. As of August 28, 2024, 33,800 projects have been obligated; approximately 15,000 of those have been closed. However, 23,000 projects remain open; of which, 4,700 remain unobligated due to various circumstances beyond the control of the recipients and applicants, such as the implementation of Immediate Needs Funding (INF) guidance.

On August 7, 2024, FEMA's Chief Financial Officer implemented the INF guidance. As a result of INF guidance, all new obligations that are not essential for lifesaving and life-sustaining activities are paused, including COVID-19 project obligations. Once the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) is sufficiently replenished, the paused obligations will be processed.

To address the current workload and challenges, including the implementation of INF, FEMA is issuing an additional extension to the closeout submission deadlines. The new deadline for small projects will extend 90 days from the date INF guidance is lifted (anticipated INF end date is October 1, 2024). This extension will help ensure we continue to make progress toward closing all projects.

The new, projected project deadlines are detailed in the table below:

COVID-19 Closeout Submission Deadlines		
Project Type	Previous Deadline	Projected New Deadline
Small Projects	9/3/2024	12/30/2024
Large Projects, obligated as of May 6, 2024	11/2/2024	12/30/2024
Large Projects, obligated after May 6, 2024	3/1/2025	3/1/2025

Closeout of COVID-19 projects has not kept pace with projections, especially for obligated small projects. We will be working over the coming weeks to develop new strategies to expedite project closeout and would appreciate your help in identifying the impediments that you are observing and how we might collaborate to address them. We must work together to prioritize COVID-19 closeout so that we can focus on other important disaster work and put the pandemic behind us.

If you have questions, please contact Robert Pesapane, Division Director, Public Assistance Division, at Robert.Pesapane@fema.dhs.gov.

Cc: Keith Turi, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Response and Recovery
Leiloni Stainsby, Acting Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Response and Recovery
Paul Judson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Recovery Directorate
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