



Chiefs and Command Staff Members:

The below information was sent out by the UNC SOG pertaining the need for local governments to declare a State of Emergency in order to receive FEMA reimbursement due to COVID-19 related issues.

Greetings:

My apologies for yet another email, but I wanted to quickly share information received from NCEM that many of you have been anxiously waiting for. Todd Wright and Will Polk with NCEM have confirmed with FEMA legal counsel that FEMA **will NOT – I repeat – will NOT** require a local state of emergency declaration as a condition for FEMA reimbursement for eligible emergency protective measures (Category B) expenses related to the COVID-19 emergency. This does not mean that you should not consider issuing a local declaration to implement your emergency operations plans and triggering local authorities to impose emergency restrictions and prohibitions as your local officials deem necessary – that is your decision to make based on what you determine best protects the public health and safety of your communities. It does mean that you do not need to declare a local state of emergency for the sole reason of preserving your opportunity for FEMA reimbursement.

In addition, we have confirmed that a local state of emergency declaration is **NOT – I repeat – is NOT** required for SBA disaster loan ([SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#)) assistance for businesses in your communities. Governor Cooper formally requested a SBA declaration last Friday and the state is awaiting approval of that request. Once the declaration request is approved, NCEM will communicate more information and will share on this listserv.

Some of you have been raising questions already about eligibility of Cat B reimbursement for specific types of expenses you are incurring in response to COVID-19. Todd Wright advises that NCEM is standing up an hotline and email that will allow applicants to get their questions answered. NCEM will communicate that information when it is available and I will share on this listserv.

Please share this email with all who may be interested, including your county and city finance officers.

Many thanks to Todd and Will for their efforts in getting this question resolved, and many thanks to our friends at FEMA for their flexibility and responsiveness in these extraordinary times!

Thanks for all you do,
Norma

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