

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Emergency Relief Program Overview

May 9, 2019



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Agenda

- What is FTA's Emergency Relief Program?
- Eligible Recipients
- Eligible Projects
- Program Policy Highlights
- Expense Eligibility When Confronting Disaster
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What is FTA's Emergency Relief Program?

- Authorized in 2012 to provide grants for:
 - Capital projects to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace equipment and facilities of a public transportation system that is in danger of suffering serious damage or has suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency
 - Operating costs of public transportation equipment and facilities in an area directly affected by an emergency
- No permanent or annual appropriation to date
- Two supplemental appropriations:
 - Hurricane Sandy in 2013 (\$10.9 billion)
 - Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2018 (\$330 million)

Eligible Recipients

- Eligible FTA Emergency Relief recipients:
 - States
 - Territories
 - FTA direct recipients
- Eligible recipients may apply for funding directly from FTA
- Subrecipients of FTA funding (i.e. rural transit agencies) may receive funding through their pass-through entity

Eligible Projects

- Disaster Response: Emergency or temporary operations outside the scope of normal operations, protective measures, and temporary repairs
- Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding: Projects to permanently repair or replace transit assets damaged or destroyed by an emergency or disaster to a state of good repair, including current standards and environmental considerations
- Disaster Resilience: Projects that address a vulnerability to a transit system or facility due to a probable occurrence or recurrence or an emergency or disaster

Examples of Response Projects

- Evacuations and temporary service to/from disaster shelters
- Emergency responder or utility worker transport
- Temporary bus service to replace inoperable rail service
- Rerouted/temporary service to avoid impassable roads
- Emergency protective measures to prevent damage or protect health and safety such as sandbagging or debris removal
- Temporary repairs to facilities to hasten their return to service until permanent repairs can be made

Examples of Recovery and Rebuilding Projects

- Vehicle repair and replacement
- Passenger, operations, or administrative facility repair or rebuilding
- Repair or replacement of other infrastructure and equipment such as power or track components and maintenance equipment
- Replacement of supplies kept in the normal course of doing business that were owned by the transit agency and destroyed in the disaster

Examples of Resilience Projects

- Flood protective measures such as sea walls; wet and dry water proofing; strengthening systems that remove rainwater from public transportation facilities; or raising rail signal, power, or other equipment above expected flood elevations
- Relocating facilities to higher ground
- Building covered storage to protect rolling stock
- Burying power lines to protect them from high-wind events
- Resilient features built into recovery projects that are integral and cost-effective, such as using stronger materials

Program Policy Highlights

- Federal share is 80% but may be increased by Secretary
- When ER funds have not been appropriated, 5307 and 5311 funds may be used to respond to a disaster but cannot be replenished/replaced if ER funds are subsequently appropriated
- FTA will not reimburse expenses already reimbursed by FEMA or any other federal agency
- Emergency and permanent repairs that do not involve functional, locational, or capacity changes do not need to be in the TIP/STIP
- Requests for waivers to administrative requirements that inhibit disaster response and recovery may be submitted to FTA's Emergency Relief Docket at www.regulations.gov

Expense Eligibility When Confronting Disaster

- “Charter-like” services are permitted if the action is directly related to a declaration of emergency. Such services include evacuations, returning evacuees to their homes, and transporting utility workers or emergency responders
- Sole source procurements are allowed if the public exigency or emergency does not permit a competitive procurement.
Document the public exigency at the time procurement
- Track separately all disaster related expenses and outcomes to facilitate reimbursement later, whether from FEMA or FTA. This includes the number/type of vehicles used for emergency operations, labor, materials, number of people evacuated, number of vehicle trips, hours of service, protective measures put in place, all damages, and any emergency or permanent repairs

References and Guidance

- Emergency Relief Program authorization: [49 U.S.C. § 5324](#)
- Emergency Relief Final Rule: [49 CFR Part 602](#)
- [Emergency Relief Manual: A Reference for States & Transit Agencies on Response and Recovery from Declared Disasters and FTA's Emergency Relief Program](#)
- FTA Emergency Relief Program Website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/emergency-relief-program/emergency-relief-program>

Questions?