

## **Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

### **What is the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program and what is the purpose?**

The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) provide supplemental funding to States for short-term crisis counseling services to eligible victims of Presidential declared major disasters. The purpose of the CCP is to relieve mental health problems caused or aggravated by the disaster or its aftermath.

There are two separate portions of the CCP that can be funded: (1) immediate services program (ISP), and (2) regular services program (RSP). The immediate services program portion is intended to enable the State or local agency to respond to the immediate mental health needs with crisis counseling services. The ISP may be funded for up to 60 days after the Presidential declaration. If a regular services program application has been submitted, the program period for the immediate services program may be extended an additional 30 days and additional funding may be awarded. A longer extension may be approved by FEMA if the review process of the regular program application exceeds 30 days. Costs incurred from the date of the incident to the date of declaration are reimbursable under the immediate services portion. The regular services program provides up to 9 months of crisis counseling services, community outreach, and consultation and education services to people affected by the disaster. Funding for the regular services program is separate from the immediate services program. The State may apply for either or both portions of the CCP.

### **What funding is available through the ISP?**

Assistance under the Stafford Act is limited to Presidential declared major disaster. The program is designed to supplement the available resources and services of the State and local governments. The support for crisis counseling services to disaster victims may be granted if existing programs and resources cannot provide these services. Funds may be needed to mobilize crisis counseling teams, evaluate the range and duration of crisis counseling services to be provided, train staff, staff FEMA Disaster Assistance Centers, etc.

### **How does a state determine if a CCP is needed?**

The State department of mental health should contact the mental health service providers in the declared area to determine if the local resources can meet the needs of the population impacted by the disaster. If the State and local providers cannot meet the needs of the impacted population, the State should consider applying for Federal assistance.

### **How does the county apply for the ISP funds?**

The County begins by assessing the disaster mental health needs through an Initial needs Assessment that must be initiated within 10 days of the date of the Presidential declaration. If the county determines that available county resources cannot meet the need for disaster mental health services, an application for ISP funds may be submitted.

The county will work with the California Department of Mental Health to write and submit the application.

**What mental health issues may surface?**

Problems such as sleep disturbances, depression, irritability and family discord commonly occur following a disaster. The Immediate Services Program (ISP) for Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training was developed in response to the recognition that disasters provide a variety of emotional and mental health disturbances, which, if untreated, may become long term and debilitating. This program is designed to provide timely relief and to prevent long-term problems from developing.

**What consultation is available from the California Department of Mental Health (CDMH)?**

The CDMH Disaster Assistance Coordinator is available to consult with the County in organizing a mental health response. For assistance contact:

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**What types of services are provided by a CCP?**

Crisis counseling services include the screening, diagnostic, and counseling techniques; as well as outreach services such as public information, community networking, consultation, and education, that can be applied to meet mental health needs immediately after a major disaster declaration.

**How does the state apply for a CCP Grant?**

The application deadline for immediate services funding is 14 days after the Presidential declaration. The regular program application is due within 60 days of the declaration. FEMA will provide the State Department of Mental Health with guidance on the application process for the CCP.

**Who is the approval authority of the CCP?**

Approval authority for the immediate services program is generally delegated by the FEMA Regional Director to the FEMA Disaster Recovery Manager. Once the application is submitted by the Governor's Authorized Representative to the Disaster Recovery Manager, it is forwarded to CMHS for review. CMHS provides the Disaster Recovery Manager with a recommendation on the extent to which the Federal assistance is warranted. The approving official for the regular program is the Director of the Human Services Division, Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA Headquarters. The State will submit the application to the Disaster Recovery Manager, who will forward it with a recommendation to approve or disapprove to the Director of

the Human Services Division. In addition, CMHS will conduct a committee review of the application.

**What are the reporting requirements of the CCP?**

The State is only required to submit a midprogram report on the immediate services program if a regular program application is being prepared. The midprogram report is included as part of the regular program application and describes the transition plans from immediate services activities to regular program activities.

The final report on the immediate services program is submitted to the FEMA Regional Director and the CMHS project officer within 90 days after the last day of immediate services funding. For the regular program, the State is required to submit two quarterly (every 90 days) progress reports and a final report due within 90 days after the end of the program. Regular program reports are submitted to the Regional Director, Director of the Human Services Division, and the CMHS project officer.

The state will work with counties and have requirements of the counties for fiscal documentation reporting in addition to midprogram and final reporting deadlines.