PROCUREMENT STANDARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AWARDS

AS RELATED TO EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID19 (4482DR-CA)

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION?

This presentation is an overview of the federal procurement standards applicable to Local Government, that exist during an emergency or exigent situation. The intent is to provide you with information about these regulations so you can administer your public assistance projects appropriately.

I am not an attorney, and this presentation is not intended to serve as legal advice. This presentation will not cover all of the procurement standards, only the issues that are applicable to the purchase of goods and services in response to an active emergency or exigent situation.

Cal OES can not guarantee that adherence to this training will result in full reimbursement of project costs, and recommends reviewing the complete requirements in Title 2 CFR Part 200, and in FEMA’s Procurement Field Manual.
INTENDED AUDIENCE

A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS DEFINED AS ANY UNIT OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN A STATE, INCLUDING:

- Counties
- Boroughs
- Municipalities
- Cities
- Towns
- Townships
- Parishes
- Local public authorities
- Special districts
- School districts
- Intrastate districts

There are additional requirements for local governments that do not apply to State Government Entities, and some of the topics described in this presentation may not apply to Private-Not-For-Profits (PNP) or Native American Tribal Governments. Private-Not-For-Profits have other eligibility considerations that have to be taken into account.
Only Emergency Protective Measures related to COVID19 are eligible for Public Assistance.

**EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES – CATEGORY B**

Work done to:
- Eliminate or lessen immediate threats to lives, public health, or safety;
- Eliminate or lessen immediate threats of significant additional damage to improved public or private property in a cost-effective manner.

If your procurement was not conducted for either of these reasons, it is likely ineligible for FEMA Public Assistance even if was the result of COVID19 – but ultimately that decision is made by FEMA.

A list of typical Emergency Protective Measures can be found in the FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (starting on page 57).
IS MY PROCUREMENT ELIGIBLE?

Whether or not a procurement is eligible will be based on the situation that led to the procurement action, and potentially how well you justify the need in the context of saving lives, or protecting public health and safety, or protecting improved property (*if it is not immediately apparent*).

IT related expenses are not eligible as emergency protective measures unless the additional cost is specifically related to work done to save lives, or protect public health and safety, or protect improved property.

If a procurement you are considering is contingent on a guarantee that FEMA is going to cost-share with you. Don’t Proceed. This program is setup to reimburse disaster related expenses that would have been incurred regardless of reimbursement (equal treatment of federal and non-federal funds).
IS MY PROCUREMENT ELIGIBLE?

Next Steps

Determining cost eligibility is not the intended purpose of this presentation.

If you still have questions regarding whether your procurement is eligible – please contact Peter.Crase@caloes.ca.gov to discuss your concerns.
The advice provided in this presentation is for emergency procurement only. It is contingent on an active emergency or exigent situation. It does not reflect the procurement standards that apply during a non-emergency situation.

Rules Specific to Purchases Made Under Non-Emergency / Not-Exigent Circumstances

Procurement of Recovered Materials

Bonding Requirements for Construction Projects

Design-Bid-Build and Design-Build Contracts

For information regarding these topics
www.fema.gov/procurement-disaster-assistance-team
RESOURCES I RECOMMEND YOU DOWNLOAD AND HAVE AVAILABLE TO REFERENCE

- Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide
- Procurement Field Manual
- Reasonable Cost Evaluation Job Aid
- Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances Fact Sheet
- Contract Provision Template
FEMA’S PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POLICY GUIDE

An overview of the PA Program implementation process with links to other publications and documents that provide additional process details.

Resource for Non-Procurement Information Topics Including
Applicant Eligibility
Facility Eligibility
Cost Eligibility
Examples of Emergency Protective Measures starting on page 57.
THE PROCUREMENT FIELD MANUAL

This Field Manual lists, describes, and exemplifies the mandatory requirements for the procurement of property and services under the FEMA Public Assistance program. The Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) developed this Manual primarily to support FEMA staff in providing accurate and consistent information to PA applicants on how to comply with these federal procurement requirements.
This job aid was created for use by FEMA personnel when evaluating whether costs are reasonable, but it is available for everyone who needs to document how they determined the cost they paid for goods or services was reasonable based on the situation at hand. This guide will be especially useful for anyone engaged in the purchase of goods that are being sold at premium due to current market conditions—such as PPE and Sanitizer.
PROCUREMENT UNDER GRANTS CONDUCTED UNDER EXIGENT OR EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides key information to consider when procuring goods or services in response to an active exigency or emergency. This fact sheet is especially relevant for the current disaster, as emergency protective measures are the only approved category of work for COVID19.
CONTRACT PROVISIONS TEMPLATE

Sample language, definitions, and references for each of the required and recommended contract clauses and provisions are available in in FEMA’s Contract Provisions Template.
RULES APPLICABLE TO PROCUREMENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MITIGATE AN ACTIVE EMERGENCY OR EXIGENT SITUATION
JUSTIFY THE USE OF THE EMERGENCY OR EXIGENT EXCEPTION WHEN BYPASSING THE NORMAL COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.
JUSTIFY THE USE OF THE EMERGENCY OR EXIGENT EXCEPTION WHEN BYPASSING NORMAL COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT.

Local, state, and even federal emergency proclamations/declarations do not automatically waive the federal procurement requirement for full and open competition.

However, a local proclamation may be necessary to waive your organization’s own requirements for competitive procurement.

The federal procurement requirement for full and open competition is only waived during a public exigency or emergency when the situation at hand will not permit the delay that would result from competitive solicitation.

In these situations, where there is a threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property, there is no pre-approval necessary; however, you must document the justification for bypassing the normal requirements for full and competition for each non-competitive procurement.
Suggested Elements for Noncompetitive Procurement Justification
Procurement Under Grants Conducted Under Exigent or Emergency Circumstances Fact Sheet

1. Identify which of the four circumstances listed in 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(f) justify a noncompetitive procurement:
   1) single source;
   2) The public exigency or emergency resulting from competitive solicitation;
   3) The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity preapproval; or
   4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

2. Provide a brief description of the product or service being procured, including the expected amount of the procurement.

3. Explain why a noncompetitive procurement is necessary. If utilizing the exigency/emergency exception, the justification should explain the nature of the public exigency or emergency, including specific conditions and circumstances that clearly illustrate why procurement other than through noncompetitive proposals would cause unacceptable delay in addressing the public exigency or emergency. (Failure to plan for transition to competitive procurement cannot be the basis for continued use of noncompetitive procurement based on public exigency or emergency).

4. State how long the noncompetitively procured contract will be used for the defined scope of work and the impact on that scope of work should the noncompetitively procured contract not be available for that amount of time.

5. Describe the specific steps taken to determine that full and open competition could not have been used, or was not used, for the scope of work (e.g., research conducted to determine that there were limited qualified resources available that could meet the contract provisions).

6. Describe any known conflicts of interest and any efforts that were made to identify possible conflicts of interest before the noncompetitive procurement occurred. If no efforts were made, explain why. If a conflict of interest is unavoidable, such as due to exigent/emergency circumstances, explain how it was unavoidable and any steps taken to address the impact of that conflict of interest.

7. Include any other information justifying the use of noncompetitive procurement in the specific instance.
THE EMERGENCY PERIOD ENDS WHEN THE IMMEDIATE THREAT HAS BEEN MITIGATED

After the immediate threat to lives, public health and safety, or improved property has been mitigated – you can no longer bypass the rules for full and open competition using the emergency or exigency exception.

Any ongoing contracts that were non-competitively awarded when responding to the emergency or exigency must be canceled, and any future procurement actions will need to abide by the rules for full and open competition.

In an effort to make this presentation as relevant to the current situation as possible – I am not discuss the rules for full and open competition.

I suggest that you familiarize yourself with these rules before we reach that point.

The FEMA PDAT Procurement Field Manual is the best resource for this information.
MEMORANDUM FOR:
ALL STATES, TERRITORIES, TRIBAL
GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND
ALL OTHER NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES
RECEIVING FEMA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

“FEMA recognizes that noncompetitive procurements may be necessary to save lives, to protect property and public health, and to ensure public safety, as well as to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.”
APPLY THE MORE STRINGENT THE ORGANIZATION’S OWN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES USED FOR PROCUREMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL FUNDS, AND THE FEDERAL PROCUREMENT STANDARDS.
APPLY THE MORE STRINGENT OF LOCAL AND FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

Local governments must follow their own documented procurement procedures (which should already reflect applicable local and state, laws and regulations).

As a condition of receiving a public assistance cost share, Local governments are also expected to abide by the federal procurement under grant standards.

When there is a difference between these standards, the local government must apply the rule that allow for compliance with all applicable layers. This is generally the more stringent rule.

**Compliance with this requirement is considerably easier during an active emergency or exigent situation when the normal rules for full and open competition can be bypassed; however, please understand that once the emergency period ends - the application of this requirement will become more complicated.**
COMPLY WITH THE UNIFORM COST PRINCIPALS OUTLINED IN TITLE 2 C.F.R. PART 200 SUBPART E, INCLUDING ENSURING THAT COSTS ARE REASONABLE.
PER THE COST PRINCIPALS, FOR SOMETHING TO BE ALLOWABLE THE COST MUST BE REASONABLE BUT WHAT IS REASONABLE?

A COST IS REASONABLE IF, IN ITS NATURE AND AMOUNT, IT DOES NOT EXCEED THAT WHICH WOULD BE INCURRED BY A PRUDENT PERSON UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING AT THE TIME THE DECISION WAS MADE TO INCUR THE COST

$200.404

The determination of whether a cost is reasonable - is not a comparison of what something cost 6 months ago. It is an evaluation of the current situation to determine whether it make sense to incur the cost.

- Is it necessary based on the situation at hand?
- Does it conform to the current market price?
- Are there emergency circumstances?
- Did you follow your own procurement procedures?
FOR PURCHASING GOODS AND SERVICES AND AT A MARKET PREMIUM AND DOCUMENTING REASONABLENESS

If the supplies or equipment will be purchased at a premium.

- Document the necessity of purchasing the supplies or equipment, at the current price, given the circumstances prevailing right now.

- Do you best to explain the need, who the supplies or equipment will be used to protect, and the potential outcome of waiting for more favorable conditions.

- If the supplies or equipment are only available through a single supplier. Document what other suppliers you tried to obtain them from at a more favorable price.

- If the supplies or equipment are available through multiple suppliers, and every supplier is charging a premium. Document that you purchased the supplies or equipment through most cost effective supplier.
AVOID THE ACQUISITION OF UNNECESSARY OR DUPLICATIVE ITEMS.
FACTORS AFFECTING THE ELIGIBILITY OF SUPPLIES PURCHASED FOR RESPONSE OR RECOVERY

Unnecessary and duplicative items are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance, only the cost of supplies necessary to carry out the scope of work. Items that are purchased specifically to be stockpiled for future use are not eligible.

If at the end of the event, if you have residual supplies that are no longer needed; if they can be repurposed for other federally funded programs this is the best option and it is allowable provided the you inform FEMA first.

Otherwise, the current market value of any unused residual supplies will be calculated. If the total of unused residual supplies is greater than $5,000, FEMA will reduce eligible funding by this amount.

For the cost of supplies to be allocable to the disaster, their usage must be tracked with inventory, withdrawal, and usage records.
PERFORM/DOCUMENT A COST OR PRICE ANALYSIS FOR EVERY PROCUREMENT ACTION ABOVE THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.
A COST OR PRICE ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED FOR EVERY PROCUREMENT GREATER THAN THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD

Every procurement action above the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), including contract modifications, requires a cost or price analysis.

The method for completing this analysis will vary based on the situation; however, the goal is always the same – a documented analysis of the procurement action that shows how you concluded that the price was fair and “reasonable”.

Price Analysis
An evaluation of the total proposed price. This analysis is used when you have multiple offers to compare prices against, and for the procurement of commercially available items.

Cost Analysis
An evaluation of the separate cost elements or line items in a single proposal as compared to independent estimates and/or historical costs.
VERIFY CONTRACTOR AND VENDOR PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY AND DOCUMENT SEARCH RESULTS AS EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE.
SUSPENDED AND DEBARRED COMPANIES CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS SUCH AS FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

What does it mean that a company is suspended or debarred?

Suspended and debarred companies cannot receive funding from any federal funded grants project. This includes FEMA Public Assistance.

What are the causes for Suspension and Debarment?

- Commission of fraud, embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal laws, receiving stolen property, an unfair trade practice
- Violation of antitrust statutes
- Willful, or a history of, failure to perform
- Violation of the Drug-Free Workplace Act
- Delinquent Federal taxes > $3,000
- Knowing failure to disclose violation of criminal law
- Any other cause that affects present responsibility
DO NOT AWARD CONTRACTS TO CONTRACTORS, OR PURCHASE THROUGH VENDORS THAT ARE SUSPENDED OR DEBARRED

Public Assistance is reimbursement grant program; therefore, it is your organization’s responsibility to verify contractor and vendor eligibility.

Contracts entered into with suspended or debarred contractors, and purchases made through suspended or debarred vendors are not eligible for a public assistance cost share. There is no minimum amount this does not apply to.

How to determine if a company is suspended or debarred

The names and addresses of every suspended and debarred company are entered into the System for Award Management (SAM), an electronic database.

SAM Exclusions may be accessed at https://www.sam.gov

Save a copy of your search results as documented evidence of compliance.
INCLUDE THE APPLICABLE CONTRACT CLAUSES DESCRIBED IN TITLE 2 C.F.R. PART 200, AND OF THE FEMA RECOMMENDED CONTRACT PROVISIONS, IN EVERY CONTRACT AND PURCHASE ORDER.
CONTRACT PROVISIONS TEMPLATE

Sample language, definitions, and references for each of the required and recommended contract clauses and provisions are available in FEMA’s Contract Provisions Template.
FEMA RECOMMENDED CONTRACT PROVISIONS

FEMA recommends the following provisions.

Contractor Acknowledgements:
- DHS has the legal right to access and review the contractor’s records.
- Permission is required to use the DHS’s Seal, Logo, or Flag.
- They will comply with all federal laws, regulations, and executive orders.
- The contract is not an obligation of the federal government.
- Title 31 of the U.S. Code Chap. 38 - Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements - applies to the contractor’s actions regarding this contract.

How the Contract Can Be Modified
Language stating how and if the contract can be modified at a later date.

Sample language is available for all of the FEMA recommended provisions.
CONTRACT PROVISIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FEDERAL AWARDS

1. Contracts in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000) must include provisions addressing administrative, contractual, or legal “remedies” in instances where contractor violates or breach terms, and provide for sanctions and penalties when appropriate.

2. Contracts in excess of $10,000 must address termination for cause and convenience.

3. Construction contracts must include the Equal Employment Opportunity clause.

4. Contract in excess of $100,000, that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers, must include a provision for compliance with the “Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act”.

5. Contracts in excess of $150,000 must contain a provision that requires the contractor to agree to comply with the Clean Air and Federal Water Pollution Control Acts.

6. All contracts must include language stating the contract is a covered transaction, and that the contractor is subject to Suspension and Debarment.

7. Contracts in excess of $100,000 must include a provision addressing the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.

8. All contracts must include language addressing the Procurement of Recovered Materials.

Sample language is available for provisions 2 through 8.
ONLY AWARD TIME AND MATERIALS CONTRACTS AFTER DOCUMENTING WHY NO OTHER CONTRACT TYPE IS SUITABLE, AND INCLUDE A CEILING PRICE THAT THE CONTRACTOR WILL EXCEED AT THEIR OWN RISK.
TIME AND MATERIALS CONTRACTS
WHAT IS A TIME AND MATERIALS CONTRACT?

A time and materials contract is a contract where the cost is composed of the actual cost of materials + a fee for labor, which is charged at fixed hourly rates that includes wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

\[
\text{Cost} = \text{Materials} + \left( \frac{\text{Admin} + \text{Wages}}{\text{Rate}} \times \text{Rate} \right) \times \text{Labor Hours}
\]

Contractors generally prefer time and materials contracts over firm fixed price agreements because they don’t bear the risk of cost overruns. Consequently, they provides no incentive for the contractor to control costs or find labor efficiencies, because the contractor’s profit increases as the labor hours increase.

For this reason, Time and Material contracts are more strictly regulated and reviewed.
TIME AND MATERIALS CONTRACTS
WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

Time and materials contract are appropriate when used to immediately respond to protect lives or public health and safety, or improved property, and in situations where it is impossible accurately estimate the extent or duration of the required scope of work or to anticipate costs with a reasonable degree of confidence.

You must **document a determination** that no other contract is suitable; preferably beforehand or shortly afterwards if it a life or death scenario.

These contracts **must be canceled and transitioned** to a different type of contract as soon as it is feasible to do so.

Time and materials contracts **must includes a ceiling price** that the contractor will exceed at it’s own risk. The ceiling price must not be so high as to render it meaningless as a cost control measure.
AVOID AWARDING COST PLUS PERCENT OF COST CONTRACTS.
THESE ARE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED.
A cost plus a percentage of cost contract is a contract where the contractor’s profit (or fee) is calculated as a percentage of unknown future costs.

**Fee = Predetermined Rate \times Unknown-Actual Future Costs**

Contractors generally prefer this pricing structure over firm fixed price agreements because they don’t bear the risk of cost overruns.

This pricing structure incentivizes the contractor to increase profit by increasing performance costs. For this reason, Cost Plus Percent of Cost Contracts are prohibited in Title 2 CFR Part 200.

FEMA will not cost share with any contracts that meets this description.
Cost plus fixed fee contracts have a pre-negotiated fee that does not change based on the actual cost to complete the project.

**Contract Cost = Fixed Fee + Unknown-Actual Future Costs**

These contracts do not incentivize the contractor to inflate project costs, and are useful when you are can only estimate the extent or duration of the required scope of work or the total project costs with a moderate amount of accuracy.

Contractors like Cost Plus Fixed Fee Contracts because they are guaranteed to make the negotiated fee – even in the event of cost overruns.

These contracts can also include reasonable incentives to lower the project’s cost. These contracts are a good alternative to Cost Plus Percent of Cost Contracts.
MAINTAIN OVERSIGHT TO ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS PERFORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THEIR CONTRACTS OR PURCHASE ORDERS.
CONTRACTOR AND VENDOR OVERSIGHT IS REQUIRED

Local governments are required to maintain oversight of their contractors and vendors to ensure they perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders; and efforts taken to maintain oversight should be documented as evidence of compliance.

Examples of this oversight include making sure contractors comply with contract terms and conditions, invoices are correct, and goods and services are received.

By necessity, Time and Materials contracts require a higher degree of oversight than firm fixed price contracts to ensure labor hours are not being inflated.

If your organization lacks qualified personnel to undertake such oversight as required; FEMA expects your organization to acquire the necessary personnel to provide these services. If you use this excuse, it will be rejected.
CONDUCT TRANSACTIONS IN A MANNER BEYOND REPROACH, AT ARM’S LENGTH, WITH IMPARTIALITY, AND WITHOUT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

ADOPT A WRITTEN STANDARDS OF CONDUCT COVERING CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS AND GOVERNING THE ACTIONS OF EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE SELECTION, AWARD, AND ADMINISTRATION OF CONTRACTS. THESE STANDARDS MUST INCLUDE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.
Local governments are required to conduct procurement transactions in a manner beyond reproach, at arm’s length, with impartiality, and without preferential treatment.

Local governments are also required to have a written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interests and governing the actions of employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts.

These standards must include disciplinary actions in the event of violations of the standards of conduct.
The officers, employees, and agents of local governments may neither solicit nor accept gifts or gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. This includes entertainment, hospitality, loans and forbearance, services, and gifts of training, transportation, local travel, lodgings, and meals, whether provided in-kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred.

De Minimus Exception
Local governments may set standards for accepting gratuities in situations in which the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value.
BOTH REAL AND APPARENT CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS MUST BE AVOIDED

No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest.

Real Conflict of Interest
A real conflict of interest arises when an employee, officer, agent any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of these individuals, has a financial or other interest or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

Apparent Conflict of Interest
An apparent conflict of interest is an existing situation or relationship that creates the appearance of a real conflict of interest.
RECUSALS IS AN OPTION TO AVOID A CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If permitted by your organization's own rules and regulations, a recusal may be appropriate when an employee, officer, or agent that is involved in awarding a contract has a real or apparent conflict of interest.

By disclosing the real or apparent conflict of interest and removing that individual from the contractor selection process, your organization may be able to resolve the conflict.

When used, document the recusal in writing and include it in the procurement file.
The standards of conduct must include disciplinary actions for violations of the standards of conduct by officers, employees, or agents.

One example of the disciplinary action that is provided is dismissal.

Any disciplinary actions outlined in your code of conduct must be enforced.
MAINTAIN RECORDS SUFFICIENT TO DETAIL THE HISTORY OF THE PROCUREMENT.
Local governments are required to maintain records sufficient to detail the history of a procurement.

**Rationale for Method of Procurement**

This is especially important for when bypassing the normal requirement for full and competition during an active emergency or exigent situation. The Emergency/Exigency justification previously described must be documented.

**Rationale for the Contract Type**

This is especially important for when awarding a time an materials contract as a determination why no other contract type was suitable must be documented.

**The Basis for the Contract / Purchase Order Price**

This is especially important when supplies and equipment are being purchased at a premium due to market conditions, and in situations where the procurement exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold and requires a price or cost analysis.
DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD KEEPING

Documents should be retained somewhere safe, where multiple people know how to access them, and not subject to normal confidential destruction cycles. When your application is closed and you received final payment, Cal OES will provide you with an audit waiver date. Do not destroy these records before that date as they could be requested for review by the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General.
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Cal OES Public Assistance COVID19 Webpage
https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/covid-19

FEMA Public Assistance Procurement Disaster Assistance Team
https://www.fema.gov/procurement-disaster-assistance-team

SPOTTED SOMETHING THAT LOOKS WRONG? FEEDBACK IS APPRECIATED.