



February 5, 2024

What is a Rapid Declaration?

A Rapid Declaration authorizes the SBA Administrator to declare an Administrative Disaster Declaration upon request by the Governor of the State or Chief Executive of the Indian Tribal government, prior to receiving a final determination from FEMA on the Individual Assistance (IA) Major Disaster Declaration request.

What led to the decision to implement the Rapid Declaration?

In the past, SBA has seen the Presidential Individual Assistance (IA) review/appeal process take several weeks before a final decision is made. Therefore, in these circumstances, SBA wanted to provide a process to obtain disaster assistance quicker, allowing disaster survivors, especially businesses and nonprofit organizations the opportunity to begin their recovery efforts without further delay.

If FEMA approves the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance what happens to the Administrative Declaration that was approved by SBA?

SBA will declare a Presidential Disaster Declaration to match FEMA's declaration and include all primary counties declared. The SBA Administrative Disaster Declaration will remain open for the primary and contiguous counties and will continue to run in parallel with the Presidential Disaster Declaration. The FOC processes will transition from an SBA Administrative Disaster Declaration process to Presidential Disaster Declaration processes meaning, SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOC) may convert to Business Recovery Centers (BRCs), and FEMA will open Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) that will include SBA Representatives. SBA will continue to provide notification by Federal Register Notice and email appropriate officials.

What will SBA's posture be in the event FEMA approves a Presidential Disaster Declaration after SBA has approved the Administrative Disaster Declaration under the Rapid Declaration Process? Will SBA encourage applicants to apply for the Presidential Disaster Declaration in the event SBA and FEMA's Declarations are running concurrently?

We will always encourage applicants to apply to FEMA due to the additional assistance FEMA's Presidential Declaration offers.

Who can request an Administrative Disaster Declaration under the Rapid Declaration process?

The Governor of the State or Chief Executive of the Indian Tribal Government.

Will the Rapid Declaration include all counties included in the FEMA Presidential Declaration Request?

The Rapid Declaration will only include counties that met SBA's criteria during the Joint PDA process.



How long do States and Tribal Governments wait to request an SBA Administrative Declaration?

Due to the long-standing agreement between SBA and FEMA, SBA gives FEMA the opportunity to review and process the Presidential Declaration Request prior to implementing the Rapid Declaration. Therefore, we are requesting that least 20 days pass without an indication that a decision will be determined before requesting a Rapid Declaration. The Field Operations Centers will remain in contact with FEMA, the State or Tribal Government to determine if SBA can proceed with an Administrative disaster declaration using the Rapid Declaration process.

Can the Governor of the State or Chief Executive of the Indian Tribal Government request a Presidential IA and Administrative Declaration at the same time?

Refer to question above.

What happens if I receive a loan and a grant?

As defined in the Loan Authorization and Agreement, SBA must be notified of any additional loans or grants received to determine if there is a duplication of benefits.

How does SBA determine if the State is eligible for an SBA Administrative Disaster Declaration under the Rapid Declaration process?

- a. The Governor of the State or Chief Executive of the Indian Tribal Government has submitted a Presidential Disaster Declaration request to FEMA to include IA and more than 20 days have passed without a final determination being made by FEMA.
- b. The Governor of the State or Chief Executive of the Indian Tribal government has submitted an official request for an Administrative Disaster Declaration to SBA for the same incident and incident period as the Presidential Declaration request to FEMA.
- c. The county(ies) included in the SBA Administrative Disaster Declaration request have met SBA's criteria for an Administrative Disaster Declaration during the Joint Individual Assistance PDA (25 homes and/or businesses with 40% or more uninsured loss of the fair replacement value or the pre-disaster fair market value, whichever is less).

Once an SBA Administrative Disaster Declaration request is submitted under the Rapid Declaration process, how long before SBA makes a decision on the request?

SBA will process the disaster declaration as quickly as possible.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact your point of contact at the Field Operations Center serving your area.

For FOC East: FOCEFieldOpsSupport@sba.gov

For FOC West: FOCWFieldOpsSupport@sba.gov