

CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund – Municipal Program (CvRF-MP) Round 2 Webinar Questions

#	Question	Answer(s)
1	How should we handle expenditures that have been submitted to FEMA but have not been approved yet? If they are not reimbursed by FEMA, can that portion go to CARES if eligible?	Expenses ruled ineligible by FEMA will be addressed during the Reconciliation period.
2	In round 1 we estimated to use funds for a particular purpose which we ended up not requiring. we did instead use these funds on other eligible uses. In the excel sheet for round 2 is there a way for us to correct the expenditures for round 1?	No. We will review actual spending via the quarterly spending reports.
3	What is the state’s recommendation for municipalities that have fund deficits due to COVID spending that is pending FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement? We are getting ready to set the tax rates in November and need to clear out this fund balance before that time frame. MEMA/FEMA already advised us that they will not be awarding funds for submitted applications by November. We can move the 25% match to awarded CARES Act funds, however, 75% of FEMA eligible expenses will remain sitting on our deficit spending account. How are we to solve for this deficit while we wait for FEMA reimbursement?	Talk to your DLS field rep about how best to account for COVID-related expenses.
4	Is the presentation going to be available on the website to download after the presentation?	This webinar will be posted to mma.org

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5	Are you only able to apply for funding once in this grant round? If something else comes up before December 30, 2020, is there a way to report that if you've already applied in Round 2?	Yes, you may only apply once for Round 2. There is be a Reconciliation period in December to address remaining expenses if you have a portion of your Total Eligible Amount remaining.
6	if a municipality did not request funding in June were they still required to report as of last Friday for expenses incurred to June 30th?	No.
7	Since FEMA is not funding requests after Sep. 15, will Mass. CARES provide full funding for otherwise FEMA-eligible expenses?	There is no deadline that Public Assistance will end at this time. MEMA issued and distirbuted a memo giving priority to projects with pre-9/15 costs submitted to FEMA by 10/15. Applicants can still submit costs after 10/15 even if they have not submitted a project by the 10/15 deadline; however, those projects will not be given priority.
8	We already reported on expenditures for FY 20 Q4. There was no direction in those instructions to delineate as to whether those expenses would fall under Round 1 or 2. Am I correct in understanding that any eligible expenses that exceeded our Round 1 allocation should be submitted as part of Round 2?	Yes.
9	When we submit for round 2, should we take into account any unspent funds from round 1?	Yes. If you have unspent funds, you should plan to allocate those resources to incurred or projected expenses.

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10	Hello, I am Eno Mondesir, New Health Director for the City of Brockton. My start date: Sept. 1st. I would like to inquire on login email and password, please.	Please submit this request to A&F via the Q&A submission form and we will provide you a password: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions
11	Can we submit an application in this round for the full remaining balance of our CARES allocation? or is there a dollar limit?	Yes, you may request up to your municipality's Remaining Eligible Amount.
12	Will there be an additional round of municipal assistance forthcoming (after December) from the Commonwealth's \$2.6B allocation?	There are no plans for additional rounds of CvRF-MP at this time. If the federal law changes, A&F will modify the CvRF-MP as appropriate.
13	If we budgted for these necessary expenses at our last town meeting as of July 1st can are these expenses be included in our application since it was after March 27, 2020?	Yes, so long as this budget was approved <i>after</i> March 27 (which appears to be the case). As federal guidance states, the "most recently approved budget as of March 27" refers to the enacted budget for the relevant fiscal period for the particular government, without taking into account subsequent supplemental appropriations enacted or other budgetary adjustments made by that government in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
14	Please go over the added eligible categories to Attachment A one more time? thanks!	The Potential Municipal Uses document (Attachment A) is available on the web here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/attachment-a-potential-municipal-uses/download

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15	Is an expense previously determined to be eligible by the commonwealth such as a COA van for our senior transportation now considered ineligible based on yesterday's memo?	Please submit this request to A&F via the Q&A submission form and we will provide you a password: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions
16	Our first Cares Act Grant - we submitted information based on costs incurred and expected up to December 2020. We were awarded based on those costs. In the 2nd round - is that just an application for additional expenses realized and expected by December 30? (Answered by Presentation - yes, I believe) Other questions from my departments: Police cost for holding a drive by flu clinic (for seniors hosted by senior center) outside due to covid? Library purchase an air filtration system to open and protect patrons? Covering sick time pay/ costs for essential workers being quarantined for 14 weeks whether exposed at work or outside work? purchasing a gear dryer for the fire department (cost at \$8,000) - Fire department has a washer already	Yes. To the extent you submitted information based on costs through 12/30 in Round 1, you did not follow the guidance to limit your Round 1 request to FY20 expenses. If so, you do not need to participate in Round 2 unless you have expenses that are not otherwise covered. To the extent that you have flu clinic costs that exceed the previously budgeted amount, these are eligible costs for the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Air filtration costs are an eligible use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund provided the municipality receives a beneficial use of the expense by December 30, 2020. Sick time and costs for essential workers are an eligible use. Yes, the gear dryer is an eligible use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
17	Will added categories be available for review for Round 2 application	The Potential Municipal Uses document (Attachment A) is available on the web here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/attachment-a-potential-municipal-uses/download

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18	<p>Which of the four 'new' categories are NOT eligible for FEMA reimbursement? Thanks!</p>	<p>Please review the "Application Form" worksheet in the Application template: https://www.mass.gov/doc/cvrf-mp-application-template-0/download</p>
19	<p>When you say expenses must be unbudgeted as of 3.1.2020, how does that affect a community that increased certain line items in their FY21 budget in anticipation of increased expenses but did not make specific appropriations for COVID expenses?</p>	<p>If these expenses themselves were not budgeted for until after March 27 then they are still CvRF-eligible. As federal guidance states, the “most recently approved budget as of March 27” refers to the enacted budget for the relevant fiscal period for the particular government, without taking into account subsequent supplemental appropriations enacted or other budgetary adjustments made by that government in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. To the extent that these costs are increases on previously budgeted line items they must represent an increase over previously budgeted amounts and be limited to what is necessary due to COVID-19. As stated in the Guidance, a cost meets this requirement if either (a) the cost cannot lawfully be funded using a</p>

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20	This was the narrative given for the COA van: the purchase of a new handicap vehicle for senior transportation. The current vehicle has been divided front/rear, however many of the clients have always sat in the front seat due to their physical limitations which is impossible now, and they cannot ascend into the van because it is not accessible.	Please submit this request to A&F via the Q&A submission form and we will provide you a password: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions
21	We did not use the round 1 cashflow request but incurred more expenses than what we applied for. How will this get reconciled?	Allocate your cashflow request to the expenses you applied for, and then request additional funds in Round 2 as is necessary.
22	Is there a list of total eligible amounts allocated for regional school districts and vocational schools? Municipalities are being asked for CvRF monies by regional and voc schools and during the Round 1 webinar we were told they received their own dedicated funding.	Municipalities are the only eligible entities to apply for the Coronavirus Relief Fund - Municipal Program.
23	Can this powerpoint be made available to download?	Yes, we will share the powerpoint on the MMA website
24	Please explain as to the audit compliance risk presented through specialty purchases such as ambulances. This is a permitted activity under the federal law and commonplace outside Massachusetts.	Ambulance purchases are a prohibited use because they are not an eligible use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

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25	Was the money allocated in round 1 earmarked, and what is/was the deadline?	Please submit this request to A&F via the Q&A submission form and we will provide you a password: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions
26	In regards to the "in use" definition for goods with the 12/30 deadline if we have sanitizing wipes in storage at town hall, if they are not actually in the offices and being used on 12/30, but in our storage room are they not eligible?	Limited stockpiles are allowed. Goods delivered in the covered period need not be used during the covered period in all cases. For example, the cost of a good that must be delivered in December in order to be available for use in January could be covered using payments from the Fund. Additionally, the cost of goods purchased in bulk and delivered during the covered period may be covered using payments from the Fund if a portion of the goods is ordered for use in the covered period, the bulk purchase is consistent with the recipient's usual procurement policies and practices, and it is impractical to track and record when the items were used.
27	Our health agent would like to purchase a towable mobile storage trailer to store and move PPE and other supplies to response areas as needed. Would this be eligible for CARES funding?	No.

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28	Our city would like to set up a remote learning center to address the needs of SPED and other students who cannot learn remote. If we contract with Boys and Girls Club for example and get the center up and running by November, is there any way we can use the money to run the center past the December deadline? (i.e. if the money is designated for the Boys and Girls Club contract).	No. The statutory deadline for use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund is December 30, 2020.
29	Will the goods/services used before 12/30, but paid after 12/30 be eligible for CVRF assistance?	Yes.
30	Is PPE for all except first responders 100% eligible for reimbursement under Cares Act funding?	PPE for first responders is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. PPE for non-first responders may be eligible for FEMA reimbursement for pre-Sept. 15 costs. PPE not reimbursed by FEMA is eligible for the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
31	I was provided with a state workbook from FEMA/MEMA, but after you close the file, reopening it no longer provides the bottom tabs or scroll bars, making it virtually unusable. Is there another excel workbook that can be used?	<p>Good afternoon, The newest version of the MEMA State WB is available here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-federal-disaster-declaration</p> <p>For any questions on troubleshooting the WB, please contact your MEMA Project Coordinator.</p>

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32	Can a municipality bill its portion of FFA leave to CARES?	To the extent that FFA leave is related to COVID-19, yes, you may use the Coronavirus Relief Fund to support those expenses through 12/30/2020.
33	For the FEMA Oct 15 date - do we include intended spending to the end of year - Dec 30?	No. The FEMA October 15 date is the deadline to file all pre-September 15 costs with FEMA.
34	can you submit a revision of the first report based on what FEMA awards?	Assuming that you are referring to the first spending report (filed 9/25/2020), yes, you will be able to amend your reporting. Please await further guidance from A&F on this subject.
35	Re: "small" capital projects: is the \$150K cap still a good guidepost?	Yes.
36	Why is the state making us jump through hoops? If we have been granted an allocation, why can't we just have access to it instead of applying to FEMA first? And if we have add'l expenses beyond our allocation then leave it up to us to apply to FEMA or find some other funding source.	In order to maximize the federal resources available to state and local governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic, municipalities are required to pursue FEMA reimbursement for all eligible expenditures. This approach allows the Commonwealth to avoid other budget balancing measures, such as cuts to local aid.
37	If we put in place a program, e.g. a wifi hotspot, with a significant ongoing cost, are the ongoing costs after 12/30 eligible?	No.

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38	<p>Our Health & Public Safety experts in our city agree that we need sheltering for the houseless in our community in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among this population and potentially our entire population. Experts are also recommending non-congregate shelters, ideally in local hotels. Will this kind of preventative and proactive action be covered among otherwise healthy members of this high-risk population? MEMA/FEMA covered congregate sheltering last time, but not non congregate. Not only is this not an ideal approach from a health perspective, we now do not have the place to put them because schools are partially in use.</p>	<p>Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020.</p>
39	<p>If a claim is denied by the FEMA due to change in eligibility criteria by FEMA, will it be fully paid out of CVRF if it is consistent with Attachment 'A'?</p>	<p>Expenses ruled ineligible by FEMA will be addressed during the Reconciliation period.</p>
40	<p>How do we know which Attachment A potential uses are going to be considered possibly FEMA eligible? The former Attachment A had some delineation noted, but the new one does not.</p>	<p>Please review the "Application Form" worksheet in the Application template: https://www.mass.gov/doc/cvrf-mp-application-template-0/download</p>
41	<p>Does the costs for conducting outside Town meetings qualify as an expense. If so what category should they be reported?</p>	<p>Yes. Please place these expenses in the "Other Request" category.</p>

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42	why aren't vehicles an eligible expense if we needed to secure transportation to bring students to/from school and services? or delivering meals to seniors?	A contract to provide transportation services through December 30, 2020 is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Purchasing a vehicle to provide these services is not an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund.
43	If there is a CARES ACT 2, will you consider an allocation based on need rather than population?	A&F will make modifications to the Coronavirus Relief Fund - Municipal Program as necessary to comply with changes to federal law. As noted in the guidance, A&F recognizes the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among municipalities in Massachusetts and remains willing to work with those communities as necessary. Municipalities requesting further consideration should submit their question via the submission form: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions
44	What happens if you missed some expenses from March 1 to June 30 when submitting the reconciliation on Sept 25th?	Assuming that you are referring to the first spending report (filed 9/25/2020), yes, you will be able to amend your reporting. Please await further guidance from A&F on this subject.

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45	Will you hold separate workshops to review the application form and troubleshoot questions? Thanks.	We can. If you have a specific question, please submit a question using this website: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/municipal_covid_spending_questions
46	we want to be able to add an ambulance to our fleet to support the increase in activity, in addition the ambulance will have the internal UV lights to kill covid- This is not something we are able to do?	No.
47	what about HVAC work - air handling units, air exchange to provide adequate supply of fresh air	Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020.
48	If i need to spend more money than anticipated in a certain category already applied for and less on another can I draw down more or do I need to reapply for more in that category on the second round?	No. Simply reallocate among the categories and then draw down funds to address uncovered expenses.
49	With regard to delays in public construction costs, Heath did not answer the question of additional costs for extension of OPM services or, by extension, damage for delay of contractors resulting directly from COVID 19 slow downs. Can he clarify please?	Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020 and in addition to the deadline, CRF can only be used for expenses above the previously budgeted amount and that can be documented as attributed to COVID-19 business interruption.

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50	There were some items we requested in Round 1 that were not purchased by June 30. I assume we should not request them again in Round 2 but can still use the Round 1 money we received to pay for them?	Yes.
51	Will the answers to questions taken offline be posted?	Yes.
52	If we received all of our allotment in round 1. Do we need to submit an application for round 2?	If your Round 1 request included a cashflow request, yes. Otherwise, no.
53	Is sick time as a result of Quarantine or Isolation eligible.	Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020.
54	We have a insurance budget, which is not overdrawn. BUT, the unemployment bill came in much higher than normal (still within budget) is this an eligible expense? I have heard from other towns they are submitting these costs.	Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020.
55	Can CARES funds be used to build out drops to households on our municipal owned fiber network, MLP, Shutesbury.net to provide internet service to those in town who are in need of internet service? And secondly can CARES funds be used to provide internet service for low income, and/or those who currently do not have by providing subsidised subscriptions with CARES funds?	Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020.

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56	You specifically mentioned that PPE for schools no longer is FEMA-eligible after 9/15. Knowing this, should we apply for 100% CARES reimbursement for PPE for schools?	Expenses ruled ineligible by FEMA will be addressed during the Reconciliation period.
57	I do not see the forms submitted by A&F on the State's Guidance for Muni Officials - CARES Act page	These documents are available on the DLS website: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-resources-and-guidance-for-municipal-officials#cares-act-for-municipal-government-
58	Can we pay for sheltering homeless in congregate facilities?	Yes, this is an eligible use of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Please note this funding is only available to support expenses through December 30, 2020.
59	I'm assuming Heath's response regarding "capital", that if the criteria of necessary, unbudgeted, incurred by 12/30 are met and well documented also applies to ebooks at our piublic library?	Yes.
60	Can you send out a Q&A document to cover the unanswered questions?	Yes.