# NLC Update Call #5:
# ARP Implementation

# American Rescue Plan Bill

- Prioritizes stabilization of local government operations, households, and small businesses
- Positions communities on a path to economic recovery

# Principles for Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

1. **Use dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible**
   - Save Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for gaps and priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs
2. **Assess government operations AND community needs**
   - Ask valuable staff and stakeholders for help creating a comprehensive needs assessment; be prepared to pivot
3. **Prioritize fiscal stability and returning to work**
   - Save pet projects for earmarks
4. **Maintain records and document success**
   - Create long-term information infrastructure for your future leaders
5. **Your Congressional Delegation is part of your success**
   - Invite Members of Congress to re-openings, ribbon-cuttings, etc...

# New ARPA Guidance: Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

These steps should be taken as soon as possible to ensure cities, towns and villages receive their funds in a timely fashion.

1. **Ensure the entity has a valid DUNS number.** A DUNS number is a unique nine-character number used to identify an organization and is issued by Dun & Bradstreet. The federal government uses the DUNS number to track how federal money is allocated. A DUNS number is required prior to registering with the SAM database, which is outlined below. Registering for a DUNS number is free of charge.
   If an entity does not have a valid DUNS number, please visit https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/ or call 1-866-705-5711 to begin the registration process.

2. **Ensure the entity has an active SAM registration.** SAM is the official government-wide database to register with in order to do business with the U.S. government. All Federal financial assistance recipients must register on SAM.gov and renew their SAM registration annually to maintain an active status to be eligible to receive Federal financial assistance. There is no charge to register or maintain your entity SAM registration.
   If an entity does not have an active SAM registration, please visit, SAM.gov to begin the entity registration or renewal process. Please note that SAM registration can take up to three weeks; delay in registering in SAM could impact timely payment of funds.
   Click here for a quick overview for SAM registration

3. **Gather the entity's payment information,** including:
   - Entity Identification Number (EIN), name, and contact information
   - Name and title of an authorized representative of the entity
   - Financial institution information (e.g., routing and account number, financial institution name and contact information)

https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund

# New ARPA Guidance: Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

These steps should be taken as soon as possible to ensure cities, towns and villages receive their funds in a timely fashion.

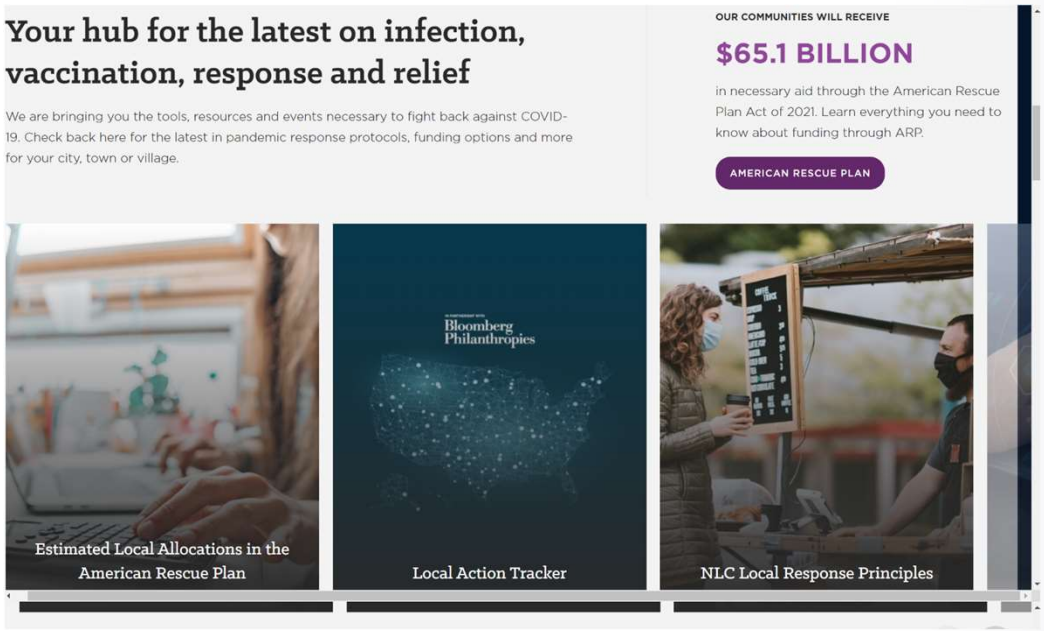
**Eligible Non-entitlement Units of Local Government will receive a distribution of funds from their respective state government.** "Non-entitlement units of local government" are defined in 42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(5) that are not metropolitan cities. For these Non-entitlement units of local government, Treasury will allocate and pay funds to state governments, and the state will distribute funds to non-entitlement units of local government in proportion to population. Non-entitlement units must have a valid DUNS number to meet reporting requirements under the program. If an entity does not have a valid DUNS number, please visit https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/ or call 1-866-705-5711 to begin the registration process.

The U.S. Department of Treasury stated that program guidance for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will be released in the coming weeks.

https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund

# NLC COVID-19 Response and Relief Hub

https://www.nlc.org/initiative/covid-19-pandemic-response/



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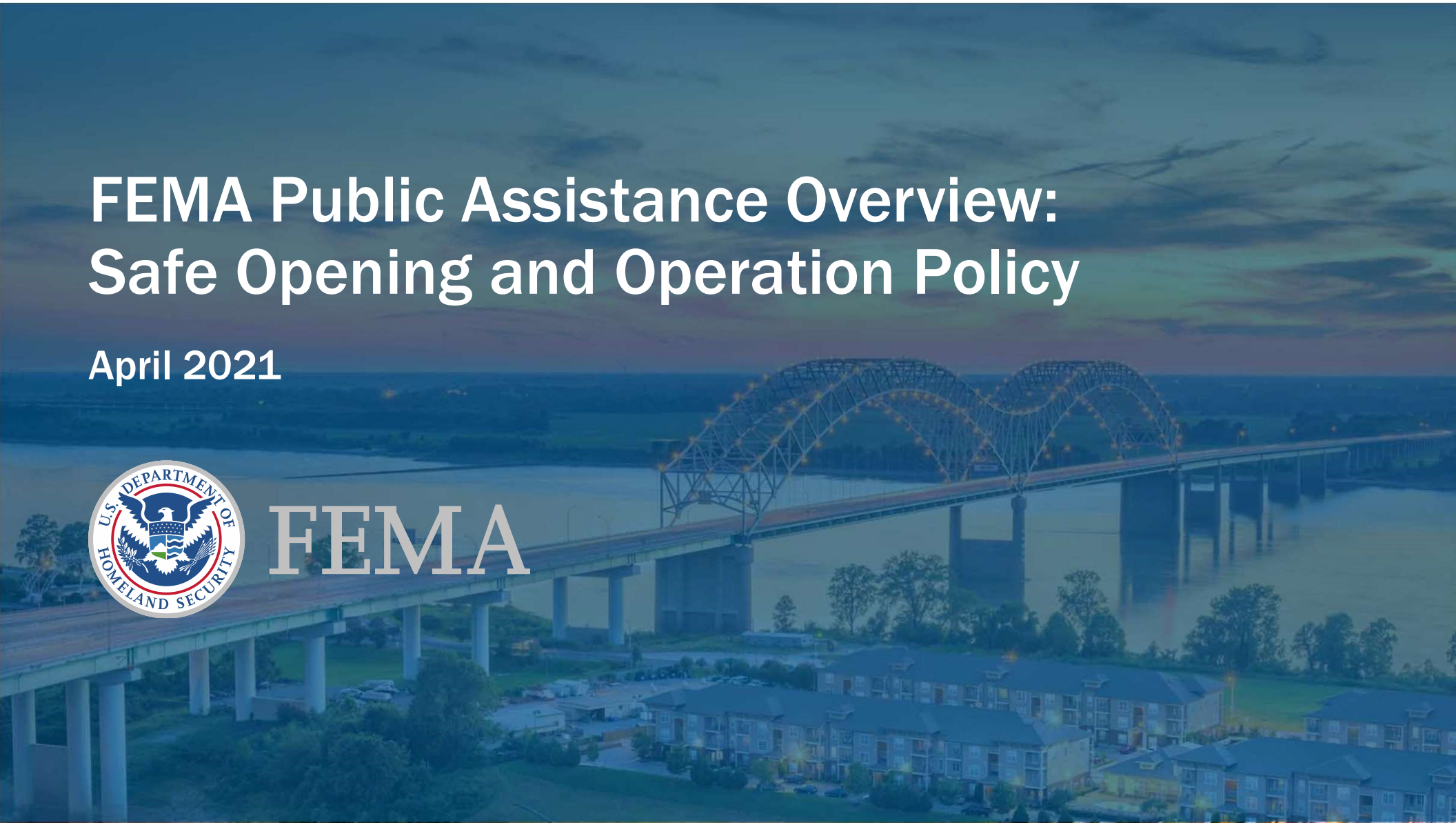


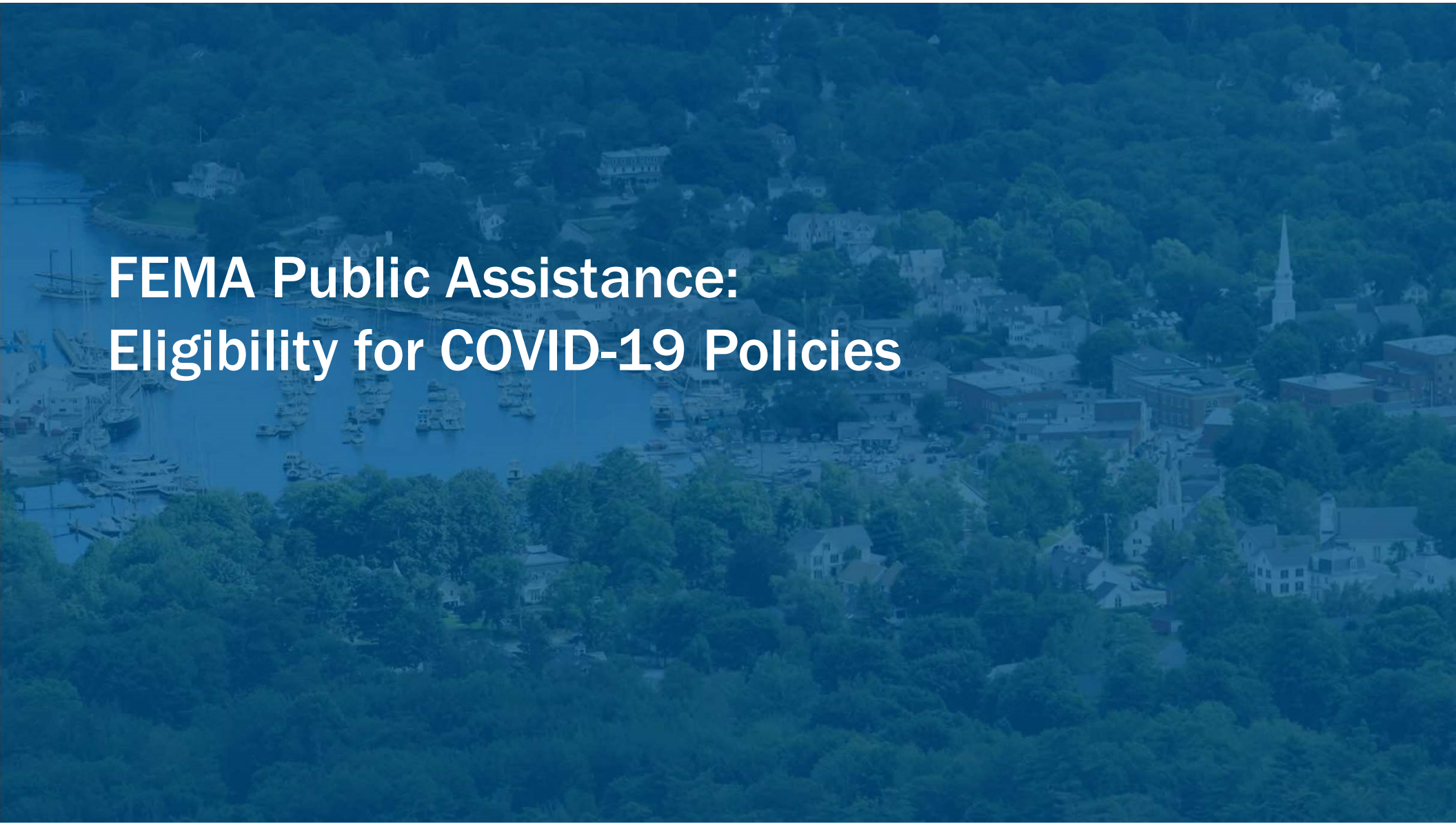
# FEMA Public Assistance Overview: Safe Opening and Operation Policy

April 2021

FEMA

# Agenda

- Public Assistance Eligibility
- Safe Opening & Operations Policy
- Resources & Information
- Q & A



# FEMA Public Assistance: Eligibility for COVID-19 Policies

# What is FEMA Public Assistance?

- Grant program that provides federal funding to help communities respond to and recover from major disasters and emergencies.
- Reimburses state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed infrastructure.
- Cost-sharing program reimburses Applicants at least 75 percent of eligible costs. For COVID-19 declarations the cost-share will be 100%.
- FEMA provides this assistance based on authority in orders (EOs), statutes, regulations and policies.

# Public Assistance: Response & Recovery for COVID-19

- President issued National Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020
- FEMA may reimburse SLTT governments through the PA Program for eligible work to respond to the COVID-19 emergency under Category B/Emergency Protective Measures
- PA policies supporting COVID-19 response and recovery:
  - Purchase and Distribution of Food (April 2020), Work Eligibility Policy (September 2020), Non-Congregate Sheltering (January 2021), Medical Care (March 2021), Safe Opening and Operation (April 2021)

# Public Assistance: General Eligibility Considerations

- Legal Responsibility
  - Work must be the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant.
  - Measures to protect life, public health, and safety are generally the responsibility of State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) governments.
  - Legally-responsible SLTT governments may enter into formal agreements or contracts with private organizations, including PNP organizations.

# Public Assistance: General Eligibility Considerations

- Allowability of Costs
  - To be eligible, claimed costs must be necessary and be reasonable pursuant to federal regulations and federal cost principles.
- Duplication of Benefits
  - FEMA is prohibited from providing financial assistance where such assistance would duplicate funding available from another program, insurance, or any other source for the same purpose (e.g. other federal agencies).
  - FEMA will reconcile final funding based on any funding provided by another agency or covered by insurance or any other source for the same purpose.

# Public Assistance vs. Other Federal Assistance

- Applicants should determine which source of funding best meets the need.
- If an eligible applicant applies for PA funding and then determines it will instead seek funding from another federal agency, the applicant should notify FEMA as soon as possible.
  - PA should be considered concurrently with other federal programs and sources
  - PA should not be considered funding of last resort
- For certain types of work that may be eligible for funding under another agency's authorities, FEMA has determined that it will not provide reimbursement for such work through the PA program.

# COVID-19 Safe Opening and Operation Policy

# Safe Opening and Operation Policy – Background

- On January 21, 2021, the President issued the "Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States"
  - Authorized FEMA to provide funding to PA Applicants for the safe opening and operation of eligible facilities.

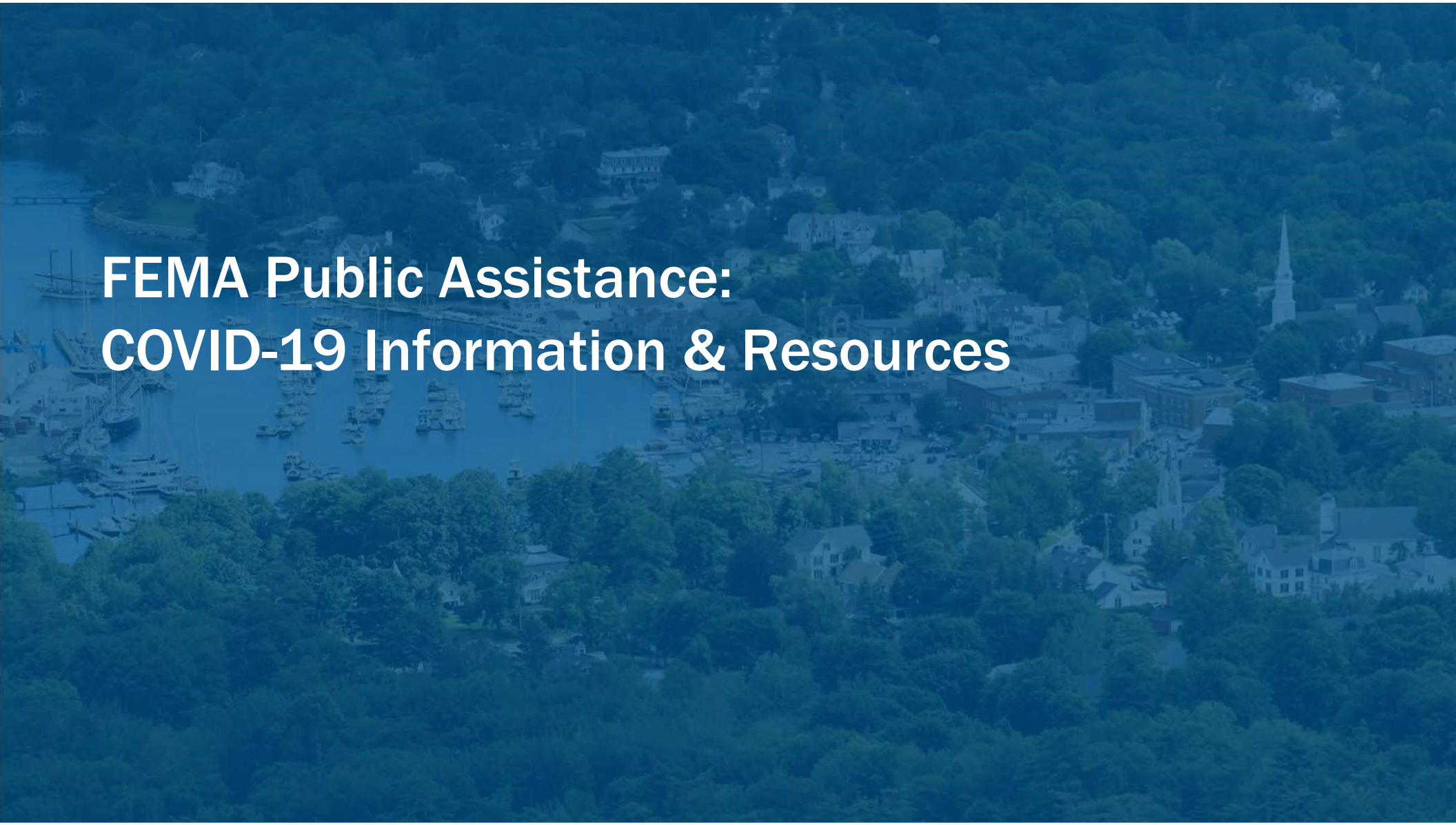
- On April 5, 2021, FEMA issued interim policy *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance*
  - Defines the details and requirements for determining eligibility for safe opening and operation costs under the PA program, as authorized by the President's Memorandum.

# Safe Opening and Operation Policy – Applicability

- Timeframe
  - Applies to work performed from January 21, 2021 through September 30, 2021 to support the safe opening and operations of PA-eligible facilities.
  - Work that is otherwise eligible under the *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Work Eligible for Public Assistance* Interim Policy (issued September 1, 2020) remains eligible for assistance.
- Cost Share
  - FEMA is funding the entire cost (i.e., 100% federal share) for the measures included in this policy.

# Safe Opening and Operation Policy – Eligible Costs

- FEMA may provide assistance to all eligible PA applicants, including SLTTs and eligible PNPs, for the following measures implemented to facilitate the safe opening and operation of eligible facilities:
  - Purchase and distribution of face masks and PPE
  - Cleaning and disinfection
  - COVID-19 diagnostic testing
  - Screening and temperature scanning
  - Acquisition and installation of portable temporary physical barriers & signage to support social distancing
  - Purchase and storage of PPE and other supplies based on projected needs



# FEMA Public Assistance: COVID-19 Information & Resources

# COVID-19 Response: FEMA Resources & Information

- *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance Policy (Interim)* - issued 4/5/21
- Public Assistance COVID-19 Medical Care Policy (Version 2) with Equity Job Aid - issued 3/16/21
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance Policy (Interim) - issued 9/1/20
- *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (Version 3.1)* – *issued April 2018*
  *(Applicable to all COVID-19 declarations)*
- *COVID-19 Resource Summary Report* *(Listing of federal programs providing COVID-19 relief)*

For additional information,
contact your state emergency management office

FEMA

## Next Steps

- NLC is working with the Treasury Department and White House on the implementation of this section of the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as work to make suggestions on guidance.

- Join our next call on April 16th at 1:30 PM

- If you have any input, questions or to share your ARP Story,

submit through this form which can be accessed by scanning:

**ARP Questions Form: https://bit.ly/3eVyvWt**

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