



FEMA

December 3, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) remains committed to its responsibility to engage in consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials, consistent with [Executive Order 13175](#), *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and reaffirmed by President Biden's "[Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#)."

The [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan Goal 1.2](#) includes a commitment to removing barriers to FEMA programs through a people first approach. The [2022-2026 FEMA National Tribal Strategy Goal 1.4](#) further commits FEMA to increase Tribal Nations' access to FEMA programs and resources by affecting policy change. [Executive Order 14112](#), *Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations to Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination*, directs all federal agencies including FEMA to remove barriers that Tribal Nations face when accessing federal resources.

Through the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (2013) (SRIA), the Stafford Act was amended to give federally recognized Tribal Nations the authority to request emergency and major disaster declarations and receive supplemental federal assistance from FEMA. The details of this process are laid out in the [2017 Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance](#) to account for the unique considerations of Tribal Nations.

In 2022, FEMA published the [2022-2026 FEMA National Tribal Strategy](#), directed to better address the needs of Tribal Nations. As a component of this strategy, FEMA identified the need to update the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance. Throughout 2023, FEMA conducted nine government-to-government consultations and listening sessions with Tribal Nations to gain a deeper understanding of the feedback necessary to improve the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance.

FEMA has developed an updated 2024 Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance. Having gathered the initial round of input, FEMA now invites Tribal Nations to participate in a government-to-government tribal consultation to further the discussion on revisions and updates to the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance. This consultation will lead to a more comprehensive overview that incorporates the needs of Tribal Nations navigating the declaration process. In addition to the consultation, FEMA will also post the Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance draft on the Federal Register website: <https://www.regulations.gov>, identified by Docket ID: FEMA-2024-0035. Changes go into effect for disasters declared on or after December 3, 2024.

FEMA will also host two webinars on the Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance to walk individuals through the changes within the guidance. These webinars are not considered official tribal consultations.



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Upcoming Tribal Consultation and Webinars on FEMA Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance:

- Virtual Tribal Consultation for 2024 Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance
Day/Time: Thursday, December 19, 2024, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. EDT
Location: <https://fema.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItce6hqDMrG1cr7GqwhQrdp0HPm3LwcpY#/registration>
- Virtual 2024 Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance Webinar
Day/Time: Friday, December 13, 2024, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. EDT
Location: https://fema.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItDO-przopE8aoM9vgicpTEx_bdQRMAj0#/registration
- Virtual 2024 Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance Webinar
Day/Time: Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. EDT
Location: <https://fema.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItc--grTspGhz1WwHWpL3M4v66EPnt-2M#/registration>

All consultation materials may be found at FEMA's [Tribal Consultations](#) webpage. Tribal Nations can submit their written comments in the Federal Register website: <https://www.regulations.gov>, identified by Docket ID: FEMA-2024-0035 until January 2, 2025. All comments submitted to the Federal Register will be made public.

If you or other Tribal Nations have any questions about the consultation or webinars, please reach out to our FEMA Tribal Affairs team at fema-tribal@fema.dhs.gov.

We look forward to your participation and feedback as we support Tribal Nations before, during, and after the declaration process.

Sincerely,

Keith Turi
Associate Administrator (A)
Office of Response and Recovery

cc: Tribal Leaders, Tribal Emergency Managers, FEMA Regional Tribal Affairs Teams, FEMA Tribal Affairs