



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
Main Line: 928-213-2000
Website: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov>

March 23, 2021

Address
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Address

Salutation,

The Flagstaff City Council would like to voice its support of the reimbursement of Flagstaff Shelter Services through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance program for the provision of non-congregate sheltering for individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Flagstaff Shelter Services (FSS) has continuously provided life-saving services to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 among our community's most vulnerable. Homeless individuals have been observed to be twice as likely to be hospitalized, two to four times as likely to require critical care and two to three times as likely to die from COVID-19 than the general population.¹ The city of Flagstaff does not directly operate any emergency shelter and thus relies on FSS to provide the only non-congregate shelter in our city/region. This is a critical service to our community and a service that only FSS is equipped to provide locally.

To begin the reimbursement process, FSS applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance program under a memorandum of understanding between the city of Flagstaff and FSS.² While government entities normally apply directly for FEMA Public Assistance funding, FSS was advised by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to apply directly as an appropriate private nonprofit organization, given the severity and time-sensitive nature of the initial and ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city of Flagstaff urges FEMA to provide reimbursement to FSS for the critical services that have been provided to vulnerable community members during this difficult and dangerous pandemic.

Thank you,

Paul Deasy

Paul Deasy
Mayor of Flagstaff

Jim McCarthy

Jim McCarthy
Flagstaff City Councilmember

Miranda Sweet

Miranda Sweet
Flagstaff City Councilmember

Becky Daggett

Becky Daggett
Vice Mayor of Flagstaff

Regina Salas

Regina Salas
Flagstaff City Councilmember

Austin Aslan

Austin Aslan
Flagstaff City Councilmember

Adam Shimoni

Adam Shimoni
Flagstaff City Councilmember

¹ https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-paper_clean-636pm.pdf

² FSS has two applications pending FEMA final review, CV-272 and CV-379