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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 5, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator 

Re: **Availability of Federal Assistance Regarding Non-congregate Emergency Sheltering for Asylum Seekers**

The federal government, through US Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is releasing asylum seekers to shelters operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or in the worst case, simply releasing individuals to the streets.

We have made numerous requests for assistance using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) public assistance to provide non-congregate sheltering. Recently, we made this request through the Arizona Department of Emergency Management and received the attached email that indicates they have been in conversations with Mr. Robert Pesapane of FEMA who indicates there is "no plan whereby Public Assistance for non-congregate sheltering or food supplements is available in Arizona."

This is a classic example of a federal agency with two distinct organizations under the same department that frankly, do not communicate with each other and facilitate a pending public safety/public health emergency on Arizona's border with Mexico.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,  
Health and Community Services  
Teresa Bravo, International Projects Program Manager, Pima County Attractions and  
Tourism  
Representatives, Arizona Border Counties Coalition

**From:** Allen Clark <[allen.clark@azdema.gov](mailto:allen.clark@azdema.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:29 AM

**To:** Teresa Bravo <[Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)>

**Cc:** Susan Dzbanko <[sdzbanko@azdohs.gov](mailto:sdzbanko@azdohs.gov)>; [michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov](mailto:michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov); Rosales, David <[david.rosales@azdema.gov](mailto:david.rosales@azdema.gov)>; Shane Clark <[Shane.Clark@pima.gov](mailto:Shane.Clark@pima.gov)>; Monica Perez <[Monica.Perez@pima.gov](mailto:Monica.Perez@pima.gov)>; Gilbert Orrantia <[garrantia@azdohs.gov](mailto:garrantia@azdohs.gov)>; Pesapane, Robert <[Robert.Pesapane@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Robert.Pesapane@fema.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: FEMA Question - Emergency Shelter

I had a phone call last night with Mr. Robert Pesapane, FEMA IV Public Assistance Administrator. Currently, there is no plan whereby Public Assistance for non-congregate sheltering or food supplements is available in AZ. He told me that he is working with Region VI (TX and NM) to devise policy about how it can be implemented.

I have copied Mr. Pesapane on this email for insight into this matter.

On Tue, Mar 2, 2021 at 9:33 AM Teresa Bravo <[Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Clark,

Thank you for your email response.

Mr. Huckelberry was inquiring about those federal funds. He is asking about the FEMA public assistance funds for non-congregate emergency shelter and food.

We understand that the San Diego County has been able to use those funds for people that need to be quarantined.

Best regards,

-Teresa

**Teresa Bravo**

International Projects

Program Manager

*\*Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA)*

**PIMA COUNTY**

**Attractions & Tourism**

115 N. Church Ave., Ste. 221

Tucson, AZ 85701

**Main:** (520) 724-7355

**Desk:** (520) 724-2005

**Email:** [Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)

**From:** Susan Dzbanko <[sdzbanko@azdohs.gov](mailto:sdzbanko@azdohs.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 12:42 PM

**To:** Allen Clark <[allen.clark@azdema.gov](mailto:allen.clark@azdema.gov)>

**Cc:** Teresa Bravo <[Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)>; [michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov](mailto:michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov); Rosales, David <[david.rosales@azdema.gov](mailto:david.rosales@azdema.gov)>; Shane Clark <[Shane.Clark@pima.gov](mailto:Shane.Clark@pima.gov)>; Monica Perez <[Monica.Perez@pima.gov](mailto:Monica.Perez@pima.gov)>; Gilbert Orrantia <[garrantia@azdohs.gov](mailto:garrantia@azdohs.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: FEMA Question - Emergency Shelter

**CAUTION:**This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Good afternoon,

Yes, Director Clark is correct. HSGP funds were made available via Information Bulletin (IB) 436, which provided an avenue to use HSGP (SHSGP, UASI and OPGS) funds for humanitarian aid. Pima County Sheriff's Department submitted a request to utilize IB 436 to divert a portion of their FFY 2018 OPSG funding to humanitarian aid; however, that request was not approved by CBP or FEMA.

To my knowledge IB 436 has not been updated/extended to any current funding years. Additionally, Pima County Sheriff's Department no longer participates in the OPSG program and all current SHSGP and OPSG funding is obligated at this time.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Susan

Susan Dzbanko  
Assistant Director - Planning and Preparedness  
Arizona Department of Homeland Security  
1700 W. Washington St. Suite 210  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
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On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 11:36 AM Allen Clark <[allen.clark@azdema.gov](mailto:allen.clark@azdema.gov)> wrote:

Teresa, I apologize for the delay in my reply.

We recognize that releases into Arizona are happening and as you are likely aware, have started communication with a long list of partners to engage their wisdom and seek assistance. In addition, both the Governor and Maj. General Mcguire has penned letters to DC regarding the lack of communication and transparency.

Specifically related to your question of funding, my team has communicated with FEMA, Health and Human Services, and others from the federal government in an attempt to find funding sources and determine their resource availability. Nothing has been obligated at this time as they are working with Texas and California to establish the asylum mission and I recognize that we have our own issues unrelated to their needs.

It is my understanding that past incidents were funded, in part, by Homeland Security grant dollars. I have copied Dir. Orrantia on this email so he can correct anything that I might write incorrectly. I also understand that those funds may no longer be available or will need to be redirected with guidance from the federal level. Again, as I do not oversee this program I am hesitant to comment further.

Finally, my team is in close communication with many NGO's and tracking the situation. There is nothing, at this time, that indicates Stafford Acts funds will be made available for this disaster but my public assistance team is also engaged. We will continue to make our needs known and appreciate any cabinet level or political support that can be given.

On Fri, Feb 19, 2021 at 11:12 AM Teresa Bravo <[Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Clark,

Per Mr. Huckelberry what is the status on the information regards FEMA funds?

We are waiting while street releases are occurring.

Best,

-Teresa

**From:** Teresa Bravo

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:04 AM

**To:** 'Allen Clark' <[allen.clark@azdema.gov](mailto:allen.clark@azdema.gov)>

**Cc:** [michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov](mailto:michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov); Rosales, David <[david.rosales@azdema.gov](mailto:david.rosales@azdema.gov)>; Shane Clark <[Shane.Clark@pima.gov](mailto:Shane.Clark@pima.gov)>; Monica Perez <[Monica.Perez@pima.gov](mailto:Monica.Perez@pima.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FEMA Question - Emergency Shelter

Thank you, Mr. Clark.

-Teresa

**From:** Allen Clark <[allen.clark@azdema.gov](mailto:allen.clark@azdema.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:45 PM

**To:** Teresa Bravo <[Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)>

**Cc:** [michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov](mailto:michael.hammarstrom@azdema.gov); Rosales, David <[david.rosales@azdema.gov](mailto:david.rosales@azdema.gov)>; Shane Clark <[Shane.Clark@pima.gov](mailto:Shane.Clark@pima.gov)>; Monica Perez <[Monica.Perez@pima.gov](mailto:Monica.Perez@pima.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: FEMA Question - Emergency Shelter

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Ms. Bravo, I have asked my team to research existing funding sources as well as legal authority within the State and will get back to you when I have additional information.

On Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 10:40 AM Teresa Bravo <[Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov](mailto:Teresa.Bravo@pima.gov)> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Clark,

The Pima County Administrator would like to know if the AZ Department Emergency Management has FEMA funds available for emergency hotel rooms?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

-Teresa

**Teresa Bravo**

International Projects

Program Manager

*\*Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA)*

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