



FEMA

IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSITIONAL SHELTERING ASSISTANCE (TSA)



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TSA Purpose

FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program is a bridge between congregate sheltering and temporary housing.

It may use hotels, motels, cruise ships or berthing vessels as transitional shelters to reduce the number of evacuees in congregate shelters until they can find temporary housing.



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TSA Purpose (cont.)

Accordingly, the purpose of TSA is to provide

- short-term lodging for evacuees
- from areas identified jointly by the state and FEMA (county/zip code)
- evacuated for an extended period of time – 5 -14 days
- homes are uninhabitable or inaccessible due to disaster-related damages.

- It is not temporary housing.



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TSA Authorization

TSA is authorized by the

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended.
 - **Section 403**, 42 U.S.C. 5170b and **Section 502**, 42 U.S.C. 5192, **Category B, Emergency Protective Measures**
- Funded under Section 403 of the Stafford Act and is subject to Public Assistance regulations on cost-share.



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TSA Policy

Because TSA is authorized and funded by Section 403, it is implemented by one of the 9400 series of Public Assistance policies.

- Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) 9443.2 Sept 22, 2008



TSA Policy (cont.)

Because its purpose is to bridge mass care sheltering authorized under Section 403 and housing assistance authorized under Section 408, it can only be used in

- Presidential declarations including both
 - **Section 403 and Section 502, Category B, Emergency Protective Measures**and
 - **Section 408, Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households**



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TSA Implementation

- Since there is a cost share, the state must submit a letter of request and an RRF to FEMA. A best practice is to have a template letter of request and RRF in the “go kit” for quick use. These are available from FEMA.
- Because it is jointly funded, the implementation of TSA is a partnership between FEMA and the state. The decisions whether or not to implement the program, in what areas, for how long, and with what criteria are decided jointly.
- A conference call between FEMA HQ, NCT, Regional, and Federal and State event leadership will be used to make the initial determinations for implementation.



TSA Implementation (cont.)

- What is covered –
 - Only GSA room rate and taxes.
 - Any additional charges such as pet deposits are not covered.
 - TSA will not cover expenses in non-participating hotels.

- Number of rooms authorized –
 - Households of 4 or fewer in the FEMA application will be authorized 1 room; 5 or more will get 2 rooms.



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TSA Implementation (cont.)

- Terms and Conditions Form –
 - Must be completed at the hotel registration desk at the time of check-in. Stipulates rules of behavior, costs covered by FEMA, and assistance end date.

- Routine use agreement –
 - A best practice is to have a template routine use agreement between FEMA and the state in the “go kit” for quick use. This is available from FEMA. It will allow for immediate coordination between FEMA, the state, and its partners to support the evacuees’ transition to temporary housing.



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TSA Implementation (cont.)

- Coordinated mass care support –
 - May involve FEMA; state and local social services, health, housing, and transportation agencies; school districts; voluntary agencies; AFN advocacy organizations.
 - Case management is critical from the beginning to ensure housing solutions before end of eligibility
 - A GIS map showing feeding locations, mass transit routes, schools districts and bus routes, and public health facilities is a best practice. This is available from FEMA.



TSA Initial Period of Assistance

- Length of time –
 - Initial period of assistance for TSA is initially 5-14 days (adjustable to 30 days if needed). TSA assistance will end when the program expires, or the applicant's authorization date ends.

- Application process –
 - Applicant is automatically reviewed for TSA eligibility when FEMA application is completed. This is “auto-determined” by NEMIS based on answers to the 4 initial eligibility criteria.



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TSA Initial Period of Assistance (cont.)

- Initial eligibility criteria –
 - Damaged dwelling in TSA designated area (county or zip code)
 - Identity verification passed
 - Occupancy verification passed
 - Applicant is displaced (current location at time of registration not in the damage dwelling)



TSA Initial Period of Assistance (cont.)

- Notification –
 - Applicants eligible for TSA are notified via an auto-dialer that calls all numbers in the NEMIS file several days at different times of the day.

- Hotel website –
 - The auto-dialer message directs applicants to go online to <http://www.femaevachotels.com/> to find participating hotels that best suit their needs. They may also call the FEMA Helpline or go to a DRC for assistance in locating a hotel.



TSA Extension(s)

- FEMA and the State together determine if there is need for continuation of the TSA program.
- Length of time – Usually 14 day increments to re-evaluate continued need.
- If the extension is beyond the time or money authorized in the initial letter of request and ARF, an extension letter of request and additional ARF will be needed.



TSA Extension(s) (cont.)

- Eligibility criteria –
 - Determined jointly by FEMA and the state
 - Based on assessed needs – location of continued inaccessibility, availability of housing resources, number of inspections outstanding, insurance delays, percentage of applicants who have received FEMA assistance, AFN, waiting for FEMA THU; etc.
 - Bulk “scrub” of files based on data fields can be used in large disasters and individual case review can be used when the number of cases is manageable.



TSA Extension(s) (cont.)

- Notification –
 - Applicants eligible for extension are notified via auto-dialer. They may also inquire via the FEMA Helpline or DRCs or the TSA Call Center Line established for each disaster.

- Review of eligibility determination –
 - Applicants may request review of their initial or extension eligibility. This will be done by FEMA TSA staff at the JFO.



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TSA Extension(s) (cont.)

- Number of extensions –
 - Determined by review each 14 day interval by FEMA and the state, not to exceed 6 months from the date of the emergency/disaster declaration.



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Questions?

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