



## KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

Boone National Guard Center  
100 Minuteman Parkway  
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

**Jeremy C. Slinker**  
Director

August 25, 2022

Brett Howard

Federal Coordinating Officer FEMA DR-4663-KY DELIVERED VIA Email

RE: Request to Extend the Public Assistance Program Registration Period

Dear FCO Howard:

As you are aware, the impacts to the declared counties have been extreme. Many communities are still in response mode, delivering life-sustaining commodities, sheltering citizens, restoring utilities, opening roads, and performing wellness checks. Schools are struggling to locate displaced students and find adequate space for classrooms. The above mentioned situation is the result of the 1 in 1,000 year flood event that has majorly impacted 18 counties who have qualified for Public Assistance (PA). Many of these impacted counties and cities have small staffs, specifically the local Emergency Management Directors. The response effort has been overwhelming and for many the capacity of identifying all of their potential PA registrants has been difficult and challenging. The size and scope of the flooding reached many potential eligible registrants that have not been flooded or involved in a disaster in recent history. It is believed many of those applicants are unaware that they are required to participate in a process or how the process works. From our information based on registration numbers and concerns expressed by local government we believe there is a high risk of leaving a large number of applicants behind, particularly houses of worship, non-profit organizations, and volunteer first responders.

While there have been 116 registrations to date, we think there are many more yet to come. This number only includes 12 houses of worship, which the Commonwealth believes there is a much larger number of those that would be eligible. Letcher County reports the city of Fleming Neon has that many or more alone. Many of the houses of worship do not have staff and will need assistance completing the registration. The Commonwealth is more than willing to assist but need more time to do so. Many of the members are actively involved in volunteering and providing flood relief and not had the opportunity to focus on their own loss.

We have asked that local officials help to identify potential applicants and urge them to submit assistance requests. Many will be first-time applicants without knowledge as to how to register in or use the FEMA Portal. Kentucky Emergency Management has deployed staff to provide assistance along with initiating an aggressive communications effort to reach those that are unaware or unfamiliar with the process. We will do this in coordination with the local officials and the joint information center (JIC) at the EOC. The extension will give the Commonwealth and local officials adequate time to ensure we are providing equitable opportunities to all eligible registrants, regardless of the challenge or situation.

I ask that you extend the registration period for an additional 30 days for the 13 counties originally declared, Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Wolf. Please advise if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeremy C. Slinker  
Governor's Authorized Representative

Cc: Stephanie Robey  
Jessica Mitchell  
Travis Mayo