

To: Rachel Hildebrand, Acting Chief Public Assistance Program Delivery Branch, FEMA/DHS

From: Mitchell Berger, (comments made in personal capacity), mazruia@hotmail.com

Re: Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Public Assistance Program, <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FEMA-2024-0005>

Dear Ms. Hildebrand: In response to the above notice and request for public input, I write to make the following suggestions concerning the draft public assistance forms identified on FEMA's Web site¹:

- **Request for Public Assistance, OMB Control Number FF-104-FY-21-131:** On pages 3-4, under "Critical Service": Educational I recommend adding charter schools along with parochial schools to this item as charter schools are eligible for FEMA PA support.² On page 4, under the heading "Emergency Medical Care (diagnosis or treatment of mental or physical injury or disease) provided in [...]", I recommend adding dental facilities, and federally qualified health centers and look-alikes³ to the list. Under the heading "Non-Critical Essential Social Service," I recommend specifically adding behavioral health facilities (inclusive of psychiatric, mental health or substance use disorder).⁴ On page 5, I would change "zoo" to "zoo, aquarium, veterinary or other animal care facility."
- **Organizational Profile, OMB Control Number FF-104-FY-22-233:** On page 4 under the heading "Which of the following best describes the organization?" I recommend adding "territorial government" to the list which would cover American Samoa, Guam and Puerto Rico.⁵

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Berger, Comment Submitted 3.3.24: mazruia@hotmail.com

Note: I am submitting these suggestions in my personal/private capacity. The views expressed are mine only and should not be imputed to other individuals nor to any public or private entity.

¹ <https://www.fema.gov/event/integrated-public-assistance-application-ipa-public-comment-period>; Integrated Public Assistance Application Updated Forms

² Eligibility of Charter Schools, FEMA Recovery Policy RP9521.5, June 2006, https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9521_5.pdf

³ <https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/eligibility-and-registration/health-centers>

⁴ See e.g., TAP 34: Disaster Planning Handbook for Behavioral Health Service Programs, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/tap-34-disaster-planning-handbook-behavioral-health-service-programs/pep21-02-01-001>

⁵ <https://www.fema.gov/ht/about/organization/regions>. Freely associated states such as the Marshall Islands are supported through a USAID-FEMA process during emergencies. See <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/congressional-testimony/mar-23-2023-renewed-us-engagement-pacific-assessing-importance-pacific-islands>; <https://www.fema.gov/locations/risk-reduction/republic%20of%20the%20marshall%20islands>