

AUDITOR OF STATE BULLETIN 98-013  
DECEMBER 16, 1998

TO: All City Auditors, Finance Directors and Treasurers  
All Village Clerks and Treasurers  
All Township Clerks  
All County Auditors  
All IPAs

SUBJECT: Accounting for FEMA grants

This office has been receiving numerous questions about the proper accounting treatment for grants received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The following are some general guidelines for handling FEMA money:

- A. When no work has been completed at the time a check is received, your entity must:
- 1) Place all funds into a special FEMA fund,
  - 2) Pay bills directly from the FEMA fund keeping in mind that the FEMA fund pays the federal share of each Damage Survey Report (DSR), that is 75% (federal) of the 100% total. The remaining 25% state/local match of any bills may be paid out of the general fund or other non-federal fund that permits expenditures for this purpose. When the state share is received, the state money may be receipted directly into the fund(s) from which the original payment(s) were made. As an alternative, if you wish to keep all expenditures related to the project in one fund, money may be advanced to the FEMA fund and repaid when the state share is received. The Auditor of State recommends that all project expenditures be maintained in one fund.
- B. When a portion or all of the work has been completed and paid for at the time the FEMA money is received, your entity must:
- 1) Place all funds into a special FEMA fund,
  - 2) For work completed and paid for, reimburse the fund(s) used to pay for the goods and/or services (before the FEMA money was received). One way to repay the fund is to reduce the expenditure in the fund making the original payment and to record the expenditure in the FEMA fund. A second method is to have advanced money to the FEMA fund in anticipation of the receipt of the grant. Repay the advance once the FEMA money is received. A third approach is to transfer the FEMA money from the FEMA fund to the fund that made the original payments.

A final alternative to repay from the FEMA fund is to create a bill from the fund that

made the original payment to the FEMA fund. The bill should identify the invoices(s) that were previously paid and show the portion(s) that are being charged to the FEMA fund. This method is most useful when the original expenditures were made in one year and receipt of the FEMA money didn't occur until the following year.

- 3) For Townships and Villages on the UAN system, the system will permit any of these procedures. Please call ~~1-800-833-8261~~ for any information on how to properly handle these types of transactions on the UAN system.

<https://uanlink.ohioauditor.gov/>

Other governments that have questions about accounting or interfund transactions may call ~~1-800-345-2519~~.

<https://ohioauditor.gov/local.html>

- 4) For any work not completed at the time FEMA money is received, please follow the instruction(s) shown under A.
- 5) Again, please keep in mind that the Federal FEMA money is to pay 75% federal match with the remaining 25% being paid from the state/local matching funds.

Please note that it is not necessary to create a FEMA fund for each Damage Survey Report. You need only create this fund for the entire grant. Appropriate fund numbers are as follows:

Villages	Alpha-Numeric	Numeric
Special Revenue Fund	B5 or B16	2901-2999
Capital Projects Fund	D2	4901-4999
Townships	Alpha-Numeric	Numeric
Special Revenue Fund	14	2901-2999
Capital Projects Fund	14	4901-4999

Note: AOS no longer prescribes alpha-numeric fund codes for villages, but does not object to governments that might still use them.

Cities and counties receiving FEMA grants should establish separate funds within their chart of accounts.

No additional Auditor of State approval is necessary to establish the FEMA funds; only a resolution of the legislative authority is needed.

The classification of the fund as special revenue or capital projects will depend on the nature of the expenditures that will be made. If the expenditures are mostly for salaries or repairs, special revenue would be appropriate. If the expenditures are for replacing fixed assets, then classify the fund as capital projects. If expenditures will be a mixture of the two, select the fund type that reflects the majority of the expenditures.

For all FEMA money, the correct receipt code to use is one which identifies the money as coming from the federal government.

UAN villages will use receipt code 411 - Federal Restricted. Non-UAN villages will use receipt code

D-141 - Federal Receipts. UAN Townships will use receipt code 511 - Federal Receipts. Non-UAN townships will use receipt code 14-C - Other Receipts.

Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to the Local Government Services Division of the State Auditor's Office at (800) 345-2519.