

# FEMA Awards Rhode Island Over \$124 Million for Covid Testing Costs

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**BOSTON** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$124 million to the State of Rhode Island to reimburse the state for the cost of providing testing for the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$124,208,921 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) for the cost of purchasing and distributing at-home test kits and providing public testing sites between March 2020 and July 2022.

RIDOH purchased and distributed 3,888,090 individual rapid at-home COVID-19 antigen tests at a cost of \$33,849,560, as well as contracting to provide 1,307,950 COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests to the public at a cost of \$43,546,718.

The remainder of the costs incurred included contracting for temporary staff to support the testing locations, leased space for the testing sites, waste removal services, natural gas and electric services, a consulting physician, unarmed security services, ambulance services, management consulting services, printed materials and office supplies to support testing activities.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the State of Rhode Island with these costs,” said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic fight is critical to their success, and to our success as a nation.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

This grant brings the total awarded by FEMA to the State of Rhode Island to almost \$793 million to reimburse the state for pandemic-related expenses.

