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Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

**GOVERNOR'S REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER**

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Mr. Paul Taylor, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region VII
11224 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster declaration for the State of Missouri as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in multiple confirmed cases and fatalities since the first presumptive positive case was identified on March 7, 2020. As of the date of this request, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services confirms that the number of confirmed cases have risen to 183 and the number of fatalities have risen to three (3). The COVID-19 pandemic has already put a tremendous strain on Missouri's health care systems. Out of the 114 counties in Missouri, 44 counties do not have a hospital.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have taken the appropriate actions under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on March 13, 2020, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. The Executive Order declared a State of Emergency for the entire state and takes into account the response and recovery actions for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This action was accomplished through Executive Order 20-02.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have taken the appropriate actions under State law and vested the Directors of the Department of Health and Senior Services; Department of Public Safety; Department of Social Services; Department of Commerce and Insurance and the Division

of Professional Registration and its Boards; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; and the Commissioner of the Office of Administration to temporarily waive or suspend the operation of any statutory or administrative rule or regulation under their purview, upon the approval of my office, to best serve the public health, safety, and financial needs during the period of the emergency and subsequent recovery period. This action was accomplished through Executive Order 20-04.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have taken the appropriate actions under State law and directed the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Director to order social distancing statewide. The order requires the following:

- In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people.
- In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid eating or drinking at restaurants, bars, or food courts; provided, however, the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed throughout the duration of this order.
- In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, people shall not visit nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, or assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance.
- In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, schools shall remain closed.

This action was pursuant to the authority granted under section 192.020, RSMo and will remain in effect until April 6, 2020, unless extended by further order of the Director of DHSS. Local public health authorities are hereby directed to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Order by means of civil proceedings.

For the COVID-19 event, the following information is furnished on the nature of volunteer resources that are currently being used and/or plan to be used to help alleviate the conditions of this event statewide.

- Local food pantries and meal providers have adjusted their processes to create meal packages for “knock and drop” home delivery, pick-up at the facilities, or via drive-through Points of Distribution (PODs). These organizations are in need of volunteers, as many volunteers fall in the age-related high-risk category for COVID-19 or are under “stay-at-home” orders.
- We anticipate the need to ask voluntary organizations to supplement volunteers for food packaging and distribution. We are sourcing those volunteers locally for as long as possible.
- Local school districts and voluntary groups are helping provide meal distribution throughout school systems.
- There have been no requests, to date, for organized feeding, fixed or mobile, from voluntary organizations, except by locals. However, feeding organizations like The

Salvation Army, Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief, and the American Red Cross are preparing for such requests.

- Many social service providers that care for clients by in-home visits are moving to a model that allows these interactions to occur by telephone.
- Emergency Human Services staff is working with voluntary organizations to identify ways to provide child care for healthcare workers and first responders.
- Long Term Recovery Groups and Community Organizations Active in Disaster are meeting to determine community need, as of now focusing on meeting needs of volunteers. A weekly All-COAD call is established to ensure continuity and share information peer-to-peer.
- Local community foundations are collecting funds to support needs of local communities.
- United Way 2-1-1 is providing COVID-19 information, as well as processing basic need/human need calls. COVID-19 calls are referred to the Department of Health and Senior Services' hotline number.
- Weekly VOAD/Partnership collaboration calls have been established to ensure continuity among partners.
- A Feeding Task Force call has been established to discuss possible feeding needs.

The impact to all sectors of industry throughout the State of Missouri are, or will be, affected by the COVID-19 event. Missouri Workforce Development estimates 169,453 self-employed workers who are not eligible for traditional unemployment. Roughly 659 of those workers are employed in arts, entertainment, and recreation, and an additional 9,700 work in accommodations and food service, sectors already negatively impacted. On average, unemployment insurance claims across all sectors are between 2,500 and 3,500 claims per week. Since March 14, 2020, daily claims have increased to over 10,000. During a span between March 15, 2020 and March 20, 2020, the department received over 39,000 claims with an average weekly benefit of \$273 or around \$10.5 million in potential new claims payments per week. The Department has also been responding to over 3,500 calls per day, well over the average of 1,500 per day during a normal season. The Missouri Restaurant Association estimates 70% of the 300,300 industry employees will be laid off for an extended period of time.

For the COVID-19 event, the following information is provided by the Missouri Department of Mental Health on projected needs above the capacity of the state. Using figures from the 2018 population count, crisis counseling services could potentially be provided to 2,450,400 Missourians. It should be noted, there are other populations of individuals that were not accounted for as potentially needing crisis counseling assistance. The minimum request will be \$36 million for the entire program and could be as high as \$50,000,000. It is impossible to estimate based upon the ongoing volatility in response efforts. The three (3) key categories are:

- The technology requirements will be critical and include hardware, hotspots, data packages, call center, licenses and delivering crisis counseling services via cold calling, and crisis line referral instead of door knocking and community events. It is estimated 40% of budget will be for technology to include contracting of hotline through BHR and/or the Coalition of Community Behavioral Health Centers as well as technology infrastructure: \$14,487,611 to \$20 million
- Public information: \$7,243,805 to \$10 million

- Staffing, training and operations: \$14,487,611 to \$20 million
250 Crisis Counselors, 50 Team Leads, State Leadership Team, training and materials, and supplies.

In 2018, Missouri's population as a whole, was roughly 6.126 million.

Adults over 65 years of age: 1,035,249

Individuals under 65 years of age with a disability: 637,104

Individuals living in poverty: 808,632

For the COVID-19 event, the following is provided by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services with regard to bio-hazardous waste and other contaminated materials. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention has stated that modeling for estimated case counts would take another week or two. During the outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, there was an estimated 240 tons of medical waste being generated each day. The normal medical waste generated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was 40 tons each day. It is estimated that there was an additional 200 tons of medical waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These estimates are based off of medical waste from hospitals and do not take into account the bio-hazard waste and other contaminated waste generated by first responders. The expectation is that there will be a significant increase in bio-hazard and other contaminated waste.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated to an Enhanced Monitoring Status (Level 4) as part of the implementation of the Missouri State Emergency Operations Plan on March 16, 2020, and then upgraded to a Partial Activation (Level 3) on March 17, 2020. The SEOC will continue at a Partial Activation (Level 3) unless the situation changes and warrants an upgrade until further notice.

I have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable nonfederal share of costs required by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

I hereby request the following two (2) programs under the Individual Assistance Program: Disaster Unemployment Assistance and the Crisis Counseling Program, statewide. The closure of multiple employment sectors will greatly impact all Missourians and will exceed state and local capability to provide mental health services, requiring federal assistance.

I hereby request the following categories of work under the Public Assistance Program: Category A (Debris Removal) and Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) statewide. Granting debris removal could assist with the removal and disposal of bio-hazard waste and other contaminated materials.

I hereby request Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) to save lives and protect property, to include debris removal and emergency protective measures, statewide. Due to the rapidly changing

nature of this public health emergency, it is still too early to fully determine the extent of the needs at this time.

I hereby request Hazard Mitigation grant assistance, statewide, in the amount of twenty percent (20%) of the estimated aggregate amount of grants to be made with respect to this major disaster, as authorized under the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000, USC Title 42, Chapter 68, Subchapter III., 5165 {Sec. 322}, paragraph e., subparagraph 1. This request is based on Missouri's FEMA approved Enhanced Mitigation Plan (July 29, 2018).

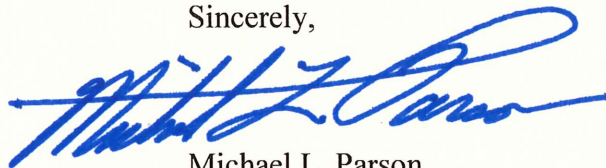
In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Missouri agrees that, with respect to Direct Federal Assistance, it will do the following:

- Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary to accomplish the approved work;
- Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work;
- Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the nonfederal share of the cost of such work in accordance with provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
- Assist the performing federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5170b, 5173, the State of Missouri agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris for this disaster. The State of Missouri agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for removal of the debris.

I have designated Ronald C. Broxton as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide any further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Parson
Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13