

Digitally Managing FEMA Reimbursements and Streamlining Recovery

By digitizing FEMA reimbursement forms, this Veoci solution simplifies tracking equipment use and labor during a crisis and streamlines the recovery phase of responding to a crisis.

A large number of governments and municipalities in the US will be filing reimbursement requests with FEMA after the COVID-19 pandemic ends. Many other organizations, like hospitals and colleges and universities, will be doing similarly.

This process requires thorough documentation. To ensure an accurate total of funds reach each organization that files for reimbursement after a disaster, FEMA asks governments, municipalities, and other qualified organizations for the aforementioned documentation of the used assets and labor hours.

For these entities, responding to an emergency as it's happening is their priority. If the situation requires speed and quick action, they act. Documentation, while important for securing the following FEMA reimbursements, falls by the wayside in the moment. But if it's so critical to the recovery phase of a disaster, why is this side of the operation given less priority during the response phase?

With manual methods — paper, pen, etc. — the process is tedious, which, in the midst of a disaster, lends to it being written off in favor of performing the task in a timely manner.

Veoci's solution for this enables organizations that are eligible for FEMA reimbursement (for either the COVID-19 pandemic or other disasters) to create the records the process asks for, almost at the same time. This speeds up and simplifies the reimbursement process during the recovery phase.

A common source allows the Veoci team to regularly update the scheduled rates for equipment and labor that FEMA defines. It is used to populate the rates of each item in an organization's Equipment List. This list can be customized easily to reflect an entity's true asset inventory.

Each asset is represented by a Veoci Form entry. While this Form entry is relatively static, it feeds other tools (i.e. Forms) within this solution. Included in each Form entry are the cost code of the asset, other identification details, and the FEMA scheduled rate of the respective piece of equipment.

This solution digitizes the handful of reimbursement Forms FEMA distributes, including the Force Account Equipment Record and Force Account Labor Record Forms. Because these Forms are digitized, personnel can always access them, easily fill them out, and proactively work towards streamlining the recovery phase of their organization's response.

The Force Account Equipment Record makes recording the use of assets simple. The Form asks the user to identify the equipment first. Here, they can use one of the Form entries from the Equipment List to populate this field in the Form. Then the users are asked how many hours the asset/equipment was used, and when, during the week, it was used. Using the scheduled rate for that particular asset in the Equipment List Form, the fields in the Force Account Equipment Record Form quickly calculate the payable amount. The Force Account Labor Record works similarly, only substituting equipment for personnel.

The data these two Forms collect from personnel filter into a Summary Form, which an organization can use as their submission to FEMA for reimbursement. An organization can accomplish this by utilizing the Form's Print View, which users can generate in a few clicks. With these in hand, an organization can upload these PDF print views with the equipment and personnel data to FEMA's portal to secure reimbursements.

The recovery phase is the most crucial for an organization rebounding from a disaster. That's why introducing a solution that will substantially impact the recovery phase in a positive way is a must for all organizations or municipalities eligible for reimbursements from FEMA.