

STATE INDIVIDUAL and FAMILY GRANT PROGRAM (IFG)

History of State IFG Program:

Authority: Alaska Statute 26.23.090

Enacted in: 1977

Amended in 1990

\$5,000 limit dates back to original date statute was enacted (1977)

Regulations: 06 Alaska Administrative Codes (AAC) 94.200 – 94.280

Adopted in: 2000

Individual Assistance Task Force:

- The Individual Assistance Task Force convened January 2008 to examine Individual Assistance programs and current program capacity to provide prompt and effective relief to individuals and families affected by disasters.
- Agencies involved in review of IFG program:
 - Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska VOAD, American Red Cross of Alaska, and USDA Rural Development
- Agencies met 10 times over a six month period
- Task Force recommended that maximum awards increase and that funding levels be tied to an annual figure such as the FEMA Individual and Households Program award or the Consumer Price Index.

IFG Program Requirements:

- AS 26.23.090
 - Governor authorized to make grants to individuals and families to meet disaster related expenses or serious needs that cannot be met from other means of assistance.
 - Current funding limits:
 - State Disaster Limit - \$5,000
 - Legislative Recommendation – One-Half of Federal IA Program (based on CPI)
- 06 AAC 94.200 – 94.280
 - Must incur a necessary expense or serious need in the declared disaster area as a result of the disaster, and be unable to meet that expense or need
 - Grants may be given to meet necessary expenses or serious needs by providing essential items or services in the following categories: housing; housing repair; personal property, transportation; medical or dental expenses; expenses related to funerals, burials, and cremations.

- Disaster victims' needs will be identified on the Disaster Assistance Application and confirmed by verifications. Verifications can be accomplished by on-site visits, photographs, Loss Verification Statement forms, and other documentation deemed appropriate by the IA Officer.
- Applicants will be denied eligibility for a current disaster claims if they have not complied with requirements on previous disasters. Therefore, applicants will be cross-referenced for any past disaster non-compliance.
- If the grantee is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, as determined by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the grantee is a homeowner, flood insurance coverage must be maintained on the residence at the flood-damaged property address for as long as the grantee owns the structure, in order for the grantee to be eligible for a future grant for acquisition and construction purposes. If the grantee is a renter, flood insurance required under this section must be maintained on the contents of the rental unit for as long as the grantee resides at the flood-damaged property address.