



Health Care Response /COVID-19 Minnesota Fund Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the instructions

Agency/Program/Activity:

Minnesota Department of Administration

Title of Request: Storage Facility

Date: 5/6/2020

Amount Requested: \$ 6,900,000

Request Funding Source:



Health Care Response Fund Request



COVID-19 Minnesota Fund Request

Brief Summary of Request:

Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached.

REQUEST: The Minnesota Department of Administration requests \$6.9 million to secure and manage a facility that can accommodate a surge in demand for the timely, dignified, and temporary storage of human remains. It is anticipated that this request will be reimbursable at 75% through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

COVID-19 is driving an increase in the number and rate of deaths in Minnesota. Based on modeling by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), this pandemic could add up to 1,000 deaths per week during the peak with half of all projected deaths occurring within a four to five-week period.

The State Emergency Operation Center's (SEOC's) Fatality Management Branch includes staff from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Funeral Directors Association, Ramsey and Hennepin County Medical Examiners, and Hennepin and Ramsey County Emergency Management. They surveyed funeral homes, medical examiner offices and hospitals across the state and determined surge capacity in the metro area would accommodate only 1,262 bodies. State-wide surge capacity would accommodate only 2,006 bodies. This survey will be conducted daily to determine what portion of the capacity is being used. Of those responding to the daily survey, 50% of available storage is already being used.

Existing state and federal mass fatality assets are ineffective in a pandemic situation. Those resources are focused on forensic analysis and identification of human remains, not providing storage. The Fatality Management Branch recommends consolidation at the state level because it achieves efficiencies otherwise unattainable by individual hospitals, medical examiners, or funeral homes. They also recommend purchasing additional capacity that can serve as a resource statewide and siting the facility in the metro area.

Minnesota has identified a facility that can accommodate anticipated needs. A 71,000 square foot facility on 5 acres in the metro area has been identified. It would add capacity for up to 5,100 bodies. The purchase price is estimated to be \$5.475 million. With \$1 million in projected building operating costs, \$425,000 of improvements, maintenance and other costs, the total need for resources is \$6.9 million. The Department of Administration will obtain an appraisal of the property and negotiate the purchase. The actual costs may vary from this estimate. Staffing and any specialty equipment costs are not included in this estimate.

Alice Roberts-Davis Digitally signed by Alice Roberts-Davis
Date: 2020.05.06 17:45:22 -05'00'
Department Head Signature

5/6/2020
Date