

legal assistance for qualified disaster victims; or

(4) Any other arrangement the Regional Director deems appropriate.

The Associate Director shall coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies and the appropriate national, state and local bar associations, as necessary, in the implementation of the disaster legal services programs.

(d) In the event it is necessary for FEMA to pay lawyers for the provision of legal services under these regulations, the Regional Director, in consultation with State and local bar associations, shall determine the amount of reimbursement due to the lawyers who have provided disaster legal services at the request of the Regional Director. At the Regional Director's discretion, administrative costs of lawyers providing legal services requested by him or her may also be paid.

(e) Provision of disaster legal services is confined to the securing of benefits under the Act and claims arising out of a major disaster.

(f) Any disaster legal services shall be provided in accordance with subpart A of these regulations, Non-discrimination in disaster assistance.

§§ 206.165–206.170 [Reserved]

§ 206.171 Crisis counseling assistance and training.

(a) *Purpose.* This section establishes the policy, standards, and procedures for implementing section 416 of the Act, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training. FEMA will look to the Director, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), as the delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

(b) *Definitions.* (1) *Assistant Associate Director* means the head of the Office of Disaster Assistance Programs, FEMA; the official who approves or disapproves a request for assistance under section 416 of the Act, and is the final appeal authority.

(2) *Crisis* means any life situation resulting from a major disaster or its aftermath which so affects the emotional and mental equilibrium of a disaster victim that professional mental health counseling services should be

provided to help preclude possible damaging physical or psychological effects.

(3) *Crisis counseling* means the application of individual and group treatment procedures which are designed to ameliorate the mental and emotional crises and their subsequent psychological and behavioral conditions resulting from a major disaster or its aftermath.

(4) *Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO)* means the person appointed by the Associate Director to coordinate Federal assistance in an emergency or a major disaster.

(5) *Grantee* means the State mental health agency or other local or private mental health organization which is designated by the Governor to receive funds under section 416 of the Act.

(6) *Immediate services* means those screening or diagnostic techniques which can be applied to meet mental health needs immediately after a major disaster. Funds for immediate services may be provided directly by the Regional Director to the State or local mental health agency designated by the Governor, prior to and separate from the regular program application process of crisis counseling assistance.

(7) *Major disaster* means any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, winddriven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this Act to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

(8) *Project Officer* means the person assigned by the Secretary, DHHS, to monitor a crisis counseling program, provide consultation, technical assistance, and guidance, and be the contact point within the DHHS for program matters.

(9) *Regional Director* means the director of a regional office of FEMA, or the