

PA Public Assistance 101



PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

To raise **awareness** of the **assistance available** through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **Public Assistance (PA) program** authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act).

INTENDED AUDIENCE

This publication is intended for **local** and **State** officials, Federally recognized **Tribal governments**, those **applying** for and/or **receiving** recovery grants through the **FEMA PA** program and other recovery and mitigation **stakeholders**.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) GRANT PROGRAM

The **Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program** provides supplemental **Federal assistance** to States and local communities to **return** an area impacted by a **Presidentially Declared** disaster to its pre-disaster **conditions** and **function**. PA supports initiatives that protect against immediate threats to **life, public safety** and **improved property**; the removal of **debris** as a result of a disaster and the **restoration** – through **repair** or **replacement** – of disaster-damaged **structures** and **facilities**.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PA PROGRAM?

There are **four (4) eligibility requirements** that must be met to participate in the **PA program**. The **Applicant** must be eligible, for the **facility** to be eligible. The **facility** must be eligible, for the **work** to be eligible. The **work** must be eligible, for the **cost** to be eligible.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State and Territorial Governments



Local Governments



Private Nonprofit Organizations



Federally recognized Tribal Governments can apply on their own directly to FEMA or through the State

COST

WORK

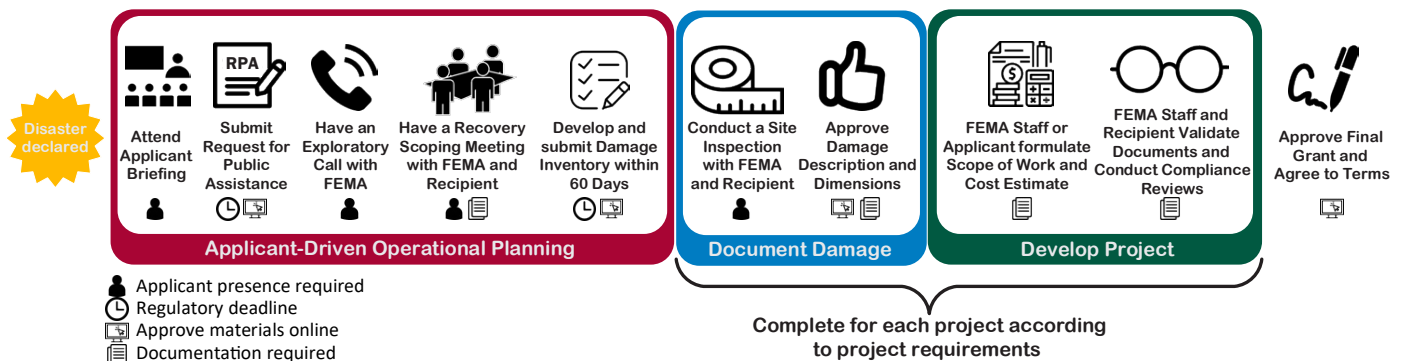
FACILITY

APPLICANT

COST SHARE

The funding for **eligible work** is typically a shared cost. The Federal share of assistance is **generally** not less than **75%** of the eligible cost for **emergency work and permanent work**. There are **EXCEPTIONS**. Under certain circumstances, the Federal share may be **90%** or even **100%**.

PA AWARD PROCESS



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

APPLICANT

There are **three (3) types** of **eligible** Applicants for PA. If an entity meets the requirements of **one (1)** of these types, the Applicant may be **eligible** to receive **Federal disaster assistance**:

- **State and Territorial Governments;**
- **Local governments and special districts** – for example, **school districts, irrigation districts, fire districts and utility districts;** and
- **Private nonprofit (PNP) organizations.** PNPs must own or operate facilities that are open to the **general public** and that provide certain **essential** and **critical services** otherwise performed by a government agency.
 - Houses of Worship (HOW)
 - Co-Op Utilities

Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or authorized Tribal organizations can apply on their own directly to FEMA or through the State.

WORK

To be **eligible** for PA funding, disaster recovery work performed on an **eligible facility** must be:

- Necessary as a direct result of a **declared incident**;
- Located within a **designated disaster area**; and
- The **legal responsibility** of an **eligible Applicant**.

FACILITY

The facility must be:

- Located in the **designated disaster area**;
- **Damaged** by the **declared incident**; and
- In active use and **open** to the **general public** at the start of the incident period.

COST

Generally, costs that can be directly tied to the performance of **eligible work** are **eligible**. Costs must be:

- **Reasonable** and **necessary** to accomplish the work;
- Compliant with **Federal, State** and **local requirements** for procurement;
- **Reduced** by all applicable credits, such as **insurance proceeds** and **salvage values**;
- Directly tied to the performance of **eligible work**; and
- **Adequately** documented.

WHAT PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES ARE FUNDED THROUGH PA GRANTS?

There are **two (2) broad categories** of eligible work – **emergency work** and **permanent work**. Each category is further subdivided as shown in the graphic to the right (not directly listed, but administrative costs will be eligible costs for administering the Public Assistance grant program).

- **Emergency work** must be performed to reduce or **eliminate** an immediate threat to **life, protect public health and safety**, or to **protect** improved **property** that is threatened in a significant way as a result of a disaster.
- **Permanent work** is work required to **restore** a damaged facility to its pre-disaster **design, function and capacity** – in accordance with applicable codes or standards.
 - **Temporary facilities** may also be eligible for PA when they are needed to ensure a **continuity of services provided by eligible applicants** that have been disrupted due to the disaster event.

FEMA PA WORK CATEGORIES

EMERGENCY WORK

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Category A | Debris Removal |
| Category B | Emergency Protective Measures |

PERMANENT WORK

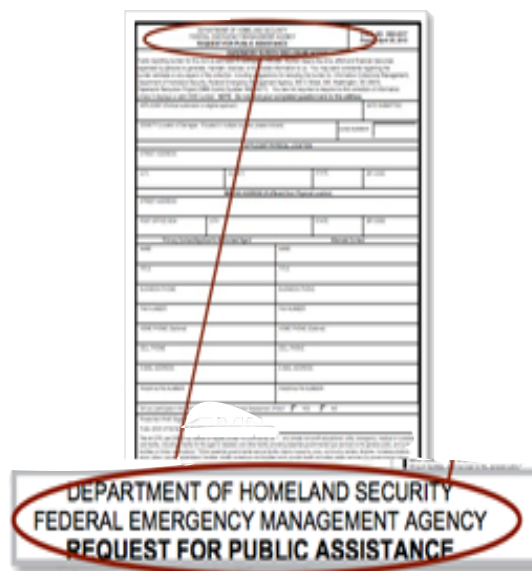
Repair Restoration of Disaster-damaged Public Facilities and Property

| | |
|------------|--|
| Category C | Roads + Bridges |
| Category D | Water Control Facilities |
| Category E | Buildings + Contents + Equipment |
| Category F | Utilities |
| Category G | Parks + Recreational + Other |

APPLICATION PROCESS

An **Applicant Briefing** is conducted by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) as soon as feasible following a **Presidential Declaration (PD)**. At the briefing, **FDEM** staff will address application procedures, administrative requirements, funding, and program eligibility criteria for potential Applicants.

Local communities, State and Territorial Governments, and private nonprofits (PNPs) apply for assistance from **FEMA** through FDEM by completing a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). The RPA is FEMA's **official** application form. The form **must** be submitted to FEMA through the FEMA Grants Portal.



The image shows a FEMA Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form. A red circle highlights the top header section, and another red circle highlights the bottom title: "DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE". A red line connects the two circles, indicating the flow of the form.

WHEN IS THE APPLICATION PERIOD?

An RPA must be submitted to FEMA within **30 days** after **Presidential-declaration designation** of the area where the damage occurred, unless extended.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

PA projects must meet **environmental** and **historic regulations**. To learn more, download the **EHP environmental + historic preservation** brochure and **visit** Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidance for FEMA Grant Applicants at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/environmental-historic>, as well as other codes, standards and regulations.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PA WORK

Eligibility rules are sometimes complex and can be confusing. To learn more, visit <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-frequently-asked-questions> OR contact the Florida Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau at **850-815-4002**.

EMERGENCY WORK

| CATEGORY A: DEBRIS REMOVAL | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trees + woody debris | ✓ | Emergency evacuations of medical and custodial care facilities | ✓ | Security in the declared disaster area | ✓ |
| Derelict Vessels | ✓ | Emergency mass care and shelter operations | ✓ | Transportation of disaster victims | ✓ |
| Building components or contents | ✓ | Emergency medical facilities | ✓ | Emergency tarping | ✓ |
| Sand + mud + silt + gravel | ✓ | Food + water + ice + other essential needs | ✓ | Generator run time for facilities that provide health and safety services | ✓ |
| Wreckage produced during conduct of emergency protective measures (for example, drywall) | ✓ | Nursing homes/ Assisted living facilities | ✓ | Removal of dead animals | ✓ |
| CATEGORY B: EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES | | PNP facility emergency protective measures IF the facilities are otherwise eligible | ✓ | Vector control when serious pests/ mosquitoes threat | ✓ |
| Alerts + warning of risks + hazards | ✓ | Rescue + care + shelter + essential needs for household pets and service animals | ✓ | Under certain conditions, ice removal | ✓ |
| Building stabilization | ✓ | Search + rescue | ✓ | | |
| Emergency communications | ✓ | | | | |

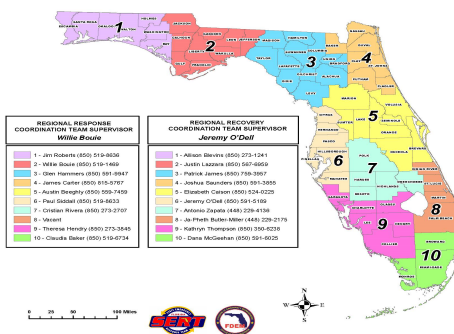
PERMANENT WORK

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| CATEGORY C: ROADS + BRIDGES (Non- FHWA) | | Lift station repair | ✓ | Sewage collection systems | ✓ |
| Road surfaces + bases + shoulders | ✓ | CATEGORY E: BUILDING + EQUIPMENT | | Water treatment plants + distribution | ✓ |
| Road ditches | ✓ | Codes + standards upgrades or a portion of that work | ✓ | CATEGORY G: PARKS + RECREATION + OTHER | |
| Road drainage structure + low-water crossings | ✓ | Contents | ✓ | Fish hatcheries | ✓ |
| Bridge approaches | ✓ | Equipment | ✓ | Golf courses | ✓ |
| Bridge decking + pavement | ✓ | Mold remediation | ✓ | Mass transit facilities | ✓ |
| Bridge piers + girders + abutments | ✓ | Restoration through repair or replacement of damaged facilities to pre-disaster design + function | ✓ | Picnic tables | ✓ |
| Bridge slope protection | ✓ | Routine or delayed maintenance | X | Piers + boat docks | ✓ |
| CATEGORY D: WATER CONTROL FACILITIES | | Temporary or permanent relocation | ✓ | Playground equipment | ✓ |
| Canals + aqueducts + sediment basins | ✓ | Under certain circumstances, ADA compliance work or a portion of that work | ✓ | Swimming pools + bath houses | ✓ |
| Certain irrigation facilities | ✓ | CATEGORY F: UTILITIES | | Tennis courts | ✓ |
| Dams + reservoirs + levees | ✓ | Communications | ✓ | Trees + ground cover + landscaping | X |
| Engineered drainage channels | ✓ | Power generation + distribution | ✓ | Other facilities that do not fit in Categories C – F | ✓ |
| Pumping facilities | ✓ | | | Beach renourishment | ✓ |
| Shore protective devices | ✓ | | | | |

ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| EHP | Environmental and Historic Preservation |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FDEM | Florida Division of Emergency Management |
| PA | Public Assistance |
| PD | Presidential Declaration |
| PNP | Private Nonprofit |
| RPA | Request for Public Assistance |

REGIONAL MAP



REFERENCES

Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) - June 2020
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pappg-v4-updated-links_policy_6-1-2020.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_public-assistance-fact-sheet_10-2019.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Debris Removal Tips
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_debris-removal-tips.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Management Costs
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_management-costs-interim_policy.pdf

FEMA RPA Application Form
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_request-public-assistance-form-FF-104-FY-21-131_102021.pdf

Grants Portal Fact Sheet
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_grants-manager-grants-portal-factsheet.pdf

Stafford Act - February 2018
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act_2019.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Delivery Model
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_delivery-model_factsheet.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance PNP HOW
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_private-non-profit-houses-worship-eligibility-fact-sheet.pdf

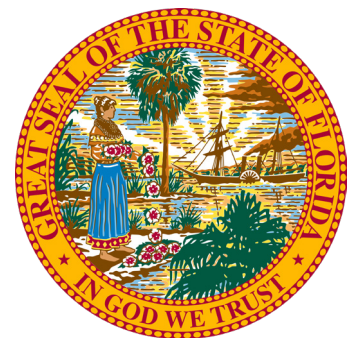
FEMA Public Assistance Contracting Requirements Checklist
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa-contracting-requirements-checklist.pdf

Grants Portal Applicant User Manual [https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20\(Mar%2028%202020\).pdf](https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20(Mar%2028%202020).pdf)

FloridaPA.org Applicant Guidelines and Guides
<https://floridapa.org/site/guidelines.cfm>

NEED HELP?

If you need **assistance** with a **PA application**; want to **know more** about **PA funding opportunities**; and be **updated** on **current guidance or announcements**, please visit <https://floridapa.org> OR contact the Florida Division of Emergency Management Recovery Bureau at **850-815-4002**.



This public document is published by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. **Eight hundred (800)** copies of this public document were published in this **7th printing** at a cost of **\$800.00**. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is **\$1,702.00**. This document was published for the purpose of providing public information and education to the Applicants of the State of Florida. This document was prepared under grants from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant program. Points of view or options expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of DHS or FEMA. **This document is designed and produced by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration's Multimedia Design unit.**