

# 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	✓

**COST**

**WORK**

**FACILITY**

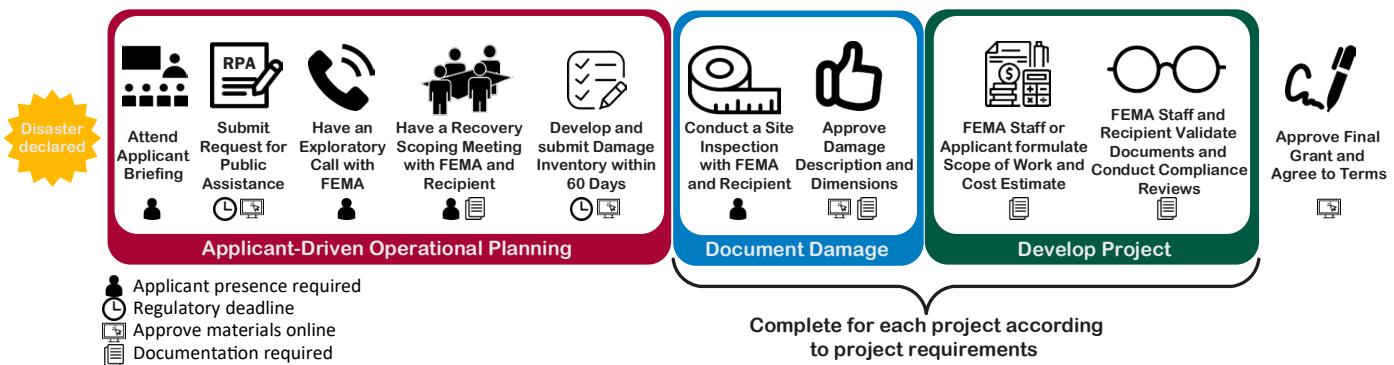
**APPLICANT**

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

## 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*

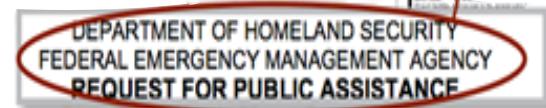
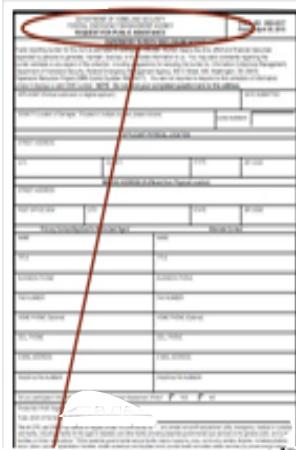
Category C	Roads + Bridges
Category D	Water Control Facilities
Category E	Buildings + Contents + Equipment
Category F	Utilities
Category G	Parks + Recreational + Other

# 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.



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

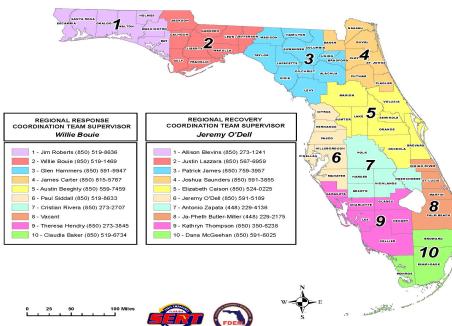
## PERMANENT WORK

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

## ACRONYMS

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

## REGIONAL MAP



## REFERENCES

<i>Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) - June 2020</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pappg-v4-updated-links_policy_6-1-2020.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pappg-v4-updated-links_policy_6-1-2020.pdf</a>	<i>Stafford Act - February 2018</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act_2019.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act_2019.pdf</a>
<i>FEMA Public Assistance</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_public-assistance-fact-sheet_10-2019.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_public-assistance-fact-sheet_10-2019.pdf</a>	<i>FEMA Public Assistance Delivery Model</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_delivery-model_factsheet.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_delivery-model_factsheet.pdf</a>
<i>FEMA Public Assistance Debris Removal Tips</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_debris-removal-tips.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_debris-removal-tips.pdf</a>	<i>FEMA Public Assistance PNP HOW</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_private-non-profit-houses-worship-eligibility-factsheet.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_private-non-profit-houses-worship-eligibility-factsheet.pdf</a>
<i>FEMA Public Assistance Management Costs</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_management-costs-interim_policy.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_management-costs-interim_policy.pdf</a>	<i>FEMA Public Assistance Contracting Requirements Checklist</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa-contracting-requirements-checklist.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa-contracting-requirements-checklist.pdf</a>
<i>FEMA RPA Application Form</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_request-public-assistance-form-FF-104-FY-21-131_102021.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_request-public-assistance-form-FF-104-FY-21-131_102021.pdf</a>	<i>Grants Portal Applicant User Manual</i> <a href="https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20(Mar%202028%202020).pdf">https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20(Mar%202028%202020).pdf</a>
<i>Grants Portal Fact Sheet</i> <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_grants-manager-grants-portal-tool_factsheet.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_grants-manager-grants-portal-tool_factsheet.pdf</a>	<i>FloridaPA.org Applicant Guidelines and Guides</i> <a href="https://floridapa.org/site/guidelines.cfm">https://floridapa.org/site/guidelines.cfm</a>

## 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**.



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