

Public Assistance Overview

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program provides assistance to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) governments, and certain types of private nonprofit (PNP) organizations. Through the Public Assistance Program, FEMA provides supplemental grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration and mitigation of disaster-damaged facilities. For additional information on the Public Assistance Program refer to the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide at: <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/policy-guidance-fact-sheets>.

Application Process

Following a President's declaration, the Recipient (the State, Tribal, or Territorial government entity that administers the Public Assistance award) conducts Applicant Briefings to provide information to potential Applicants about the Public Assistance Program. Applicants are SLTT government entities and PNPs that apply for Public Assistance by submitting a Request for Public Assistance via FEMA's Public Assistance Grants Portal (<https://grantee.fema.gov>). Grants Portal is the system Applicants use to submit and manage Public Assistance project applications.

FEMA accepts Requests for Public Assistance up to 30 days from the date the area (county, parish, city, municipality, etc.) was designated in the declaration. After FEMA approves the Request for Public Assistance, the Applicant receives notification of approval and instructions on how to request funding for its incident-related impacts.

Facility Eligibility

In general, SLTT government Applicants may receive Public Assistance grant funding for facilities that the Applicant owns or has legal responsibility for maintaining. PNP Applicants may receive funding for facilities that provide educational, utility, emergency, medical, or custodial care, including for senior citizens or individuals with disabilities, and other essential social-type services to the public.

Work Eligibility

FEMA provides Public Assistance grant funding for:

- Emergency protective measures;
- Debris removal; and
- Permanent restoration of damaged facilities, including cost-effective hazard mitigation measures.

At a minimum, work must meet each of the following three general criteria to be eligible:

- Be required as a result of the declared incident;
- Be located within the designated area; and
- Be the legal responsibility of an eligible Applicant.



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Cost Eligibility

FEMA provides Public Assistance funding at a cost share of no less than 75 percent. Eligible costs must be:

- Directly tied to the performance of eligible work;
- Adequately documented;
- Reduced by all applicable credits, such as insurance proceeds and salvage values;
- Authorized and not prohibited under Federal or SLTT government laws or regulations;
- Consistent with the Applicant's internal policies and procedures; and
- Necessary and reasonable to accomplish the work properly and efficiently.

Project Amounts

FEMA establishes a minimum project threshold and a large project threshold for each Federal fiscal year that apply to incidents declared within that fiscal year. The thresholds are based on the Consumer Price Index and are available at: [Per Capita Impact Indicator and Project Thresholds | FEMA.gov](#).

- Project costs must equal or exceed the minimum project threshold to be eligible.
- Small Projects are those with costs above the minimum project threshold and less than the large project threshold.
- Large Projects are those with costs equal to or greater than the large project threshold.

FEMA does not adjust estimated Small Project costs to actual final costs. FEMA adjusts estimated Large Project costs to actual final costs (except for Alternative Procedures Projects described below).

Alternative Procedures

FEMA is currently piloting Alternative Procedures for permanent restoration of damaged facilities, which offers the following benefits when Applicants accept a fixed cost amount on a Large Project:

- Flexibility in meeting post-disaster recovery needs, as opposed to being limited to rebuilding back to what existed prior to the disaster;
- Sharing of funds across all Alternative Procedures Projects;
- Retention and use excess funds to reduce risk and improve future disaster operations; and
- Cost-effective hazard mitigation on replacement projects.

Equitable Delivery of Disaster Services

The Applicant must comply with all laws and authorities prohibiting discrimination, including but not limited to, Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 7 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color or national origin (including limited English proficiency); and Section 308 of the Stafford Act, which requires the impartial and equitable delivery of disaster services and activities without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.