

Public Assistance (PA) Program

Eligible Uses

Emergency Repairs, Planning and Design, Construction/Capitalization

At a Glance FEMA provides grants through the PA Program. These assist States, Tribes, local governments and certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations respond to and recover from major emergencies or disasters. The president declares disasters under the Stafford Act.

The PA Program provides assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures. It also supports permanent restoration of infrastructure. Mitigation funds may also be available under this program.

Eligible Activities To be eligible, the work must be within the designated disaster area and a result of the disaster. It must also be the legal responsibility of the applicant. Eligible work is either “emergency” work or “permanent” work. The two types of emergency work are debris removal and emergency protective measures.

There are five categories of permanent work to restore an eligible damaged facility to its pre-disaster design. These range from minor repairs to replacement. Categories of permanent work that are relevant to water and wastewater utilities include public utilities and water control facilities. The other permanent work categories are roads and bridge systems, public buildings and equipment, and other public facilities such as parks and recreation areas.

Funds for mitigation are also available under the Public Assistance Grant Program. Funding is for the repair work required as a result of a disaster. Funds require a presidential disaster declaration. Mitigation project funds cannot pay to replace a disaster-damaged facility. However, FEMA can approve more funds for an improved project.

An improved project includes the work required to repair the disaster-damaged facility and restore its function, as well as improvements. Section 406 can fund mitigation measures with repairs. The mitigation measures must relate to eligible disaster-related damages. They must also directly reduce the potential of future, similar disaster damages to the facility.

Cost Sharing Federal: 75 percent
State, local, and tribal governments or PNP organizations: 25 percent.

Applications FEMA provides a support system for grant applicants. FEMA offers a designated state liaison, a public assistance coordinator (PAC), and a project specialist. They provide guidance and assistance throughout the application process.

More Sources and Contact Information

Locate and contact your state emergency management agency using the following link:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program

<https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>