



Public Assistance Program (PA)

The objective of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

When disaster strikes and local jurisdictions are affected, the first step is the local declaration process. Once the declaration process is completed the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) begins. Local jurisdictions are asked to assess costs and damages associated with an incident period. Those costs are sent to the State Emergency Management Office. Once compiled state-wide, the Governor will decide if there is enough costs/damages to ask for a Presidential Declaration. If granted, those jurisdictions may be eligible for reimbursement. Each jurisdiction must sustain at least \$1,000 of damage or costs associated with the specific disaster within the incident period.

Two thresholds must be met to be considered for a disaster. The County must meet a minimum amount equal to \$3.23 per capita (or \$117,219.93). The second threshold must be met by the State equal to \$1.29 per capita (or \$3,468,059.22). Once both thresholds are met, the State is eligible to make application for a Presidential Declaration.

Damage Categories

Emergency Work

Category A: Debris Removal - Clearance of trees and woody debris; certain building wreckage; damaged/ destroyed building contents; sand, mud, silt, and gravel; vehicles; and other disaster-related material deposited on public and, in very limited cases, private property (see also Debris Removal).

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures - Measures taken before, during, and after a disaster to eliminate/reduce an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety, or to eliminate/reduce an immediate threat of significant damage to improved public and private property through cost-effective measures (see also Emergency Protective Measures).

Permanent Work

Category C: Roads and Bridges - Repair of roads, bridges, and associated features, such as shoulders, ditches, culverts, lighting, and signs (see also Roads and Bridges).

Category D: Water Control Facilities - Repair of drainage channels, pumping facilities, and some irrigation facilities. Repair of levees, dams, and flood control channels fall under Category D, but the eligibility of these facilities is restricted (see also Flood Control Works).

Category E: Buildings and Equipment - Repair or replacement of buildings, including their contents and systems; heavy equipment; and vehicles (see also Buildings and Equipment).

Category F: Utilities - Repair of water treatment and delivery systems; power generation facilities and distribution facilities; sewage collection and treatment facilities; and communications (see also Utilities).

Category G: Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Facilities - Repair and restoration of parks, playgrounds, pools, cemeteries, mass transit facilities, and beaches. This category also is used for any work or facility that cannot be characterized adequately by Categories A-F (see also Parks and Recreational Areas).

For complete information on the Public Assistance process, please go to the following link: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm>