

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

To raise **awareness** of **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-funding grants through the **FEMA PA** program and other disaster-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 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 **Subrecipient (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 Agencies	✓
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments	✓
Local Governments	Able to apply through state jurisdiction
Private Nonprofit Organizations	Able to apply through local jurisdiction

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



JACKSON BARRACKS IN NEW ORLEANS, LA



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

APPLICANT

There are **four (4) types** of **eligible** Subrecipients (Applicants) for PA. If an entity meets the requirements of **one (1)** of the types, the Subrecipient (Applicant) may be **eligible** to receive **Federal disaster assistance**.

- **State government agencies.**
- **Local governments and special districts** – for example **school districts, irrigation districts, fire districts** and **utility districts**.
- **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.
- **Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or authorized Tribal organizations.**

WORK

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

- *Required* as a *direct* result of a **major disaster** event.
- Located within a **designated disaster area**.
- The **legal responsibility** of an **eligible** Subrecipient (Applicant).

FACILITY

The facility must be:

- Located in the **designated disaster area**.
- **Damaged** by the declared disaster or emergency.
- In *active use* and **open** to the **general public** at the time of the disaster.

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**.

Cost is **reasonable** *if* it is a cost that is both **fair** and **equitable** for the type of work being performed.

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.

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

An **Applicant Briefing** is conducted by the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) as soon as *feasible* following a **Presidential Declaration (PD)**. At the briefing, both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and GOHSEP staff are available to **assist** potential Subrecipients (Applicants) in determining for PA funding.

Local communities, State agencies, Tribal authorities and eligible **PNPs** apply for assistance from **FEMA** through **GOHSEP** by completing a *Request for Public Assistance (RPA)*. The RPA is FEMA’s **official** application form. The form can be submitted at the Applicant Briefing or through **LouisianaPA.com** – GOHSEP’s PA grants management portal.

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 fema.gov/office-environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation.

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.

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

The image shows a FEMA Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form. A red circle highlights the title 'REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE' at the top. Another red circle highlights the text 'DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE' at the bottom of the form.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PA WORK

Eligibility rules are sometimes complex and can be confusing. To learn more, visit [fema.gov/public-assistance-eligible-work](https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-eligible-work) OR contact your GOHSEP PA State Applicant Liaison (SAL) OR call 225-925-7590.

EMERGENCY WORK	
CATEGORY A: DEBRIS REMOVAL	
Trees + woody debris	✓
Building components or contents	✓
Sand + mud + silt + gravel	✓
Wreckage produced during conduct of emergency protective measures (for example, drywall)	✓
CATEGORY B: EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES	
Alerts + warning of risks + hazards	✓
Building stabilization	✓
Emergency communications	✓
Emergency evacuations of medical and custodial care facilities	✓
Emergency mass care and shelter operations	✓
Emergency medical facilities	✓
Food + water + ice + other essential needs	✓
Blue roofs	✗
PNP facility emergency protective measures IF the facilities are otherwise eligible	✓
Rescue + care + shelter + essential needs for household pets and service animals	✓
Search + rescue	✓
Security in the declared disaster area	✓
Transportation of disaster victims	✓

Temporary generators for facilities that provide health and safety services	✓
Removal of dead animals	✓
Vector control when serious threat	✓
Under certain conditions, ice removal	✓
PERMANENT WORK	
CATEGORY C: ROADS + BRIDGES	
Road surfaces + bases + shoulders	✓
Road ditches	✓
Road drainage structure + low-water crossings	✓
Bridge approaches	✓
Bridge decking + pavement	✓
Bridge piers + girders + abutments	✓
Bridge slope protection	✓
CATEGORY D: WATER CONTROL FACILITIES	
Canals + aqueducts + sediment basins	✓
Certain irrigation facilities	✓
Dams + reservoirs + levees	✓
Engineered drainage channels	✓
Pumping facilities	✓
Shore protective devices	✓
CATEGORY E: BUILDING + EQUIPMENT	
Codes + standards upgrades or a portion of that work	✓
Contents or a portion thereof	✓

Equipment	✓
Mold remediation	✓
Restoration through repair or replacement of damaged facilities to pre-disaster design + function	✓
Routine maintenance	✗
Temporary or permanent relocation	✓
Under certain circumstances, ADA compliance work or a portion of that work	✓
CATEGORY F: UTILITIES	
Communications	✓
Power generation + distribution	✓
Sewage collection systems	✓
Water treatment plants + distribution	✓
CATEGORY G: PARKS + RECREATION + OTHER	
Fish hatcheries	✓
Golf courses	✓
Mass transit facilities	✓
Picnic tables	✓
Piers + boat docks	✓
Playground equipment	✓
Swimming pools + bath houses	✓
Tennis courts	✓
Trees + ground cover + landscaping	✗
Other facilities that do not fit in Categories C – F	✓

ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
EHP	Environmental and Historic Preservation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
LAPA	Louisiana Public Assistance
PA	Public Assistance
PD	Presidential Declaration
PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment
PNP	Private Nonprofit
RPA	Request for Public Assistance
SAL	State Applicant Liaison

REFERENCES

FEMA 321 – *Public Assistance Policy Digest* – January 2008
fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/pdigest08.pdf

FEMA 322 *Public Assistance Guide* – June 2007
fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25651

FEMA Fact Sheet: Sandy Recovery Improvement Act Of 2013 and FEMA's Recovery Directorate, February 2013
gohsep.la.gov/agencyrelated/Debris/FEMA_Fact_Sheet_Sandy_Recovery_Improvement_Act.pdf

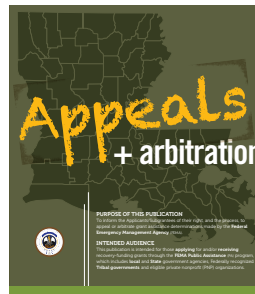
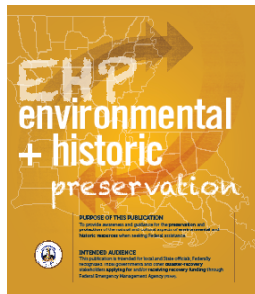
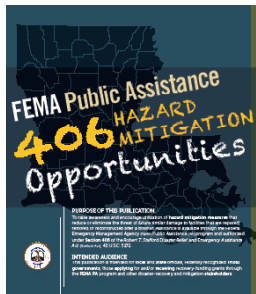
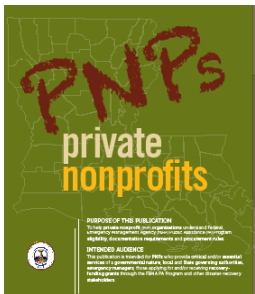
FEMA PA Grant Application Process
fema.gov/public-assistance-grant-application-process

FEMA RPA Application Form
fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2658

Louisiana Public Assistance (LAPA)
LouisianaPA.com

Stafford Act
fema.gov/media-library/assets/

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TOOLBOX



ALTERNATE AND IMPROVED PROJECTS *Coming Soon!*

NEED HELP?

If you need **assistance** with a **PA application** or want to **know more** about PA funding opportunities, contact your GOHSEP PA SAL or call 225-925-7590.



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