Federal Emergency Management Agency
Public Assistance Grant Program

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Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program

The mission of the PA Program is to assist communities in recovering from the devastating effects of disasters by providing technical assistance and financial grants in an efficient, effective, consistent and customer-friendly manner. We will accomplish the mission by having experienced, trained, knowledgeable and friendly staff; well documented, easy-to-understand and accessible policies and procedures; timely and transparent decision-making; and a strong partnership with recipients. We will continuously seek and identify opportunities to improve program delivery.
Eligibility Structure

Applicant

Facility

Work

Cost
Types of Work

Emergency Work
A. Debris Removal
B. Emergency Protective Measures

Permanent Work
C. Roads and Bridge Systems
D. Water Control Facilities
E. Public Buildings / Equipment
F. Public Utilities
G. Other (Parks, Recreation, etc.)
Emergency Work
Category A – Debris Removal

Debris removal is eligible when:

- It eliminates an immediate threat to life, health, and safety
- It eliminates an immediate threat of significant damage to improved property
- It ensures economic recovery of the community and provides a benefit for the community-at-large
- If debris is so widespread that public health, safety, or economic recovery of the community is threatened, the actual removal of debris from private property may be eligible.
Emergency Work
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures

Emergency Protective Measures are actions taken by a community before, during, and following a disaster to save lives, protect public health and safety, or eliminate immediate threat of significant damage to improved public and private property through cost effective measures.
Permanent Work
Categories C - G

Eligible Permanent Work:

- Must repair, restore, or replace disaster-damaged facilities in accordance with regulations
- Must restore to pre-disaster design, capacity and function in accordance with applicable codes and standards
- Must be required as a result of the disaster
- May include cost effective hazard mitigation measures
Building Back Better

FEMA’s Public Assistance Program can assist communities become more resilient by funding:

- Measures to protect a damaged facility against future damage,
- Restoration of facilities to local codes and standards,
- Hazard-resistant design provisions of the International Code Council’s building codes for buildings that have sustained significant damage, and
- Relocation of some facilities outside hazard-prone areas.
**Building Back Better**

**Local codes and standards:**
Generally, Public Assistance will fund upgrades to meet local building codes. To be eligible for upgrades, codes and standards must:

- Apply to the type of repair or restoration to the facility,
- Be appropriate to the pre-disaster use of the facility,
- Be reasonable, formally adopted in writing, and in effect at the time of the disaster, and
- Apply uniformly to all similar types of facilities.

**Minimum standards for buildings**
- Consensus-based industry standards that incorporate hazard-resistant design

Government building outfitted with storm panels that can withstand winds up to 120 mph.
Building Back Better

Hazard mitigation funding:
Public Assistance can provide funding to mitigate future disaster damage. This is commonly referred to as Section 406 Mitigation. In order to be eligible for Section 406 Mitigation, the mitigation activity must be associated with the disaster damage, reduce the risk of future damage to the facility, and be cost effective.

Relocations:
FEMA can authorize and fund the relocation of a facility out of a hazard-prone area when it has sustained repetitive and heavy damage, is not prohibited by law, and has been shown to be cost-effective.

Enlarged culvert and added inlet walls to focus water flow away from roadway.