

Public Assistance (PA) Program

Eligible Uses

Emergency Repairs, Planning and Design, Construction/Capitalization

Overview (purpose, mechanisms)	FEMA provides grants through the PA Program to assist States, Tribes, local governments and certain Private Nonprofit (PNP) organizations with response to and recovery from major emergencies or disasters declared by the President under the Stafford Act. Specifically, the PA Program provides assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of infrastructure. Mitigation funds may also be available under this Program.
Recipients	States, local governments, tribes, and certain PNPs via states are eligible to receive funds. Eligible PNP facilities must be open to the public and perform essential services of a governmental nature that include utilities, such as water, sewer, and electrical power systems. States are responsible for distributing funds to subgrantees (the recipient).
Eligible Activities	To be eligible, the work must be required as the result of the disaster, be within the designated disaster area, and be the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant. Work that is eligible for supplemental federal disaster grant assistance is classified as either emergency work or permanent work. The two categories of emergency work are debris removal and emergency protective measures. There are 5 categories of permanent work to restore an eligible damaged facility to its pre-disaster design, which can range from minor repairs to replacement. Categories of permanent work that are relevant to water and wastewater utilities include public utilities (such as water treatment and delivery systems, power generation facilities and distribution lines, and sewage collection and treatment facilities) and water control facilities (including drainage channels, pumping facilities, and the emergency repair of levees). The other permanent work categories address roads and bridge systems, public buildings and equipment, and other public facilities such as parks and recreation areas.

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Funds for mitigation are also available under the Public Assistance Grant Program. Funding is related directly to the repair work required as a result of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster. Costs approved for project-specific mitigation measures may not be applied to improved projects that will involve the replacement of the disaster-damaged facility, whether on the same site or an alternate site. However, funds recommended for mitigation measures may be approved for an improved project that will include the work required to repair the disaster-damaged facility and restore its function, as well as improvements. Section 406 provides discretionary authority to fund mitigation measures in conjunction with the repair of damaged facilities. The mitigation measures must be related to eligible disaster-related damages and must directly reduce the potential of future, similar disaster damages to the eligible facility. These opportunities usually present themselves during the repair and replacement efforts. Mitigation funding under the Stafford Act is a discretionary spending program. While the law provides that the President may authorize funds for eligible projects, it does not require funding. FEMA, grantee, and subgrantee interests in disaster resistance must be balanced with the supplemental nature of disaster assistance and FEMA's obligation for the prudent stewardship of federal disaster funds.

Cost Sharing	Federal: 75 percent State, local, and tribal governments or PNP organizations: 25 percent [The grantee (usually the state) determines how the non-federal share is split with the subgrantees (i.e., eligible applicants).]
Application Requirements	FEMA provides a support system for grant applicants in the form of a designated state Liaison, a Public Assistance Coordinator (PAC), and a Project Specialist, who provide guidance and assistance throughout the application process. Mitigation work should be identified at specific sites receiving FEMA Public Assistance.

Additional Sources/Contact Information

For more information, locate and contact your state emergency management agency using the following link:

<http://www.fema.gov/about/contact/statedr.shtm>

Public Assistance Branch, Recovery Division, FEMA, DHS,
500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472

FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program

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