



## FEMA Public Assistance Program Fact Sheet

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program provides grants to state, local, and federally recognized tribal governments and certain private non-profit entities to assist them with the response to and recovery from disasters. Specifically, the program provides assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The federal share of assistance is not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration.

### Eligible Applicants:

- State and local governments
- Federally recognized tribal governments
- Certain private non-profits that own or operate facilities which provide educational, utility, emergency, medical, or a non-critical but essential social service and provides those services to the general public.

### Public Assistance Process:

- As soon as practicable following a disaster, FEMA, state, and local municipalities participate in a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment. These findings are sent to the Governor who in turn requests the President to authorize federal assistance.
  - The State must reach a threshold based on a per capita damage indicator for a Major Disaster Declaration. This information is located by county at [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org). For 2020, the threshold is \$7,073,807.00 for South Carolina, and is adjusted annually for inflation. For a counties to be eligible for Public Assistance, they must meet a county threshold also based on a per capita indicator.
- If a Major Disaster Declaration is approved by the President, the grantee then conducts the Applicant Briefings for state, territorial, local, tribal and PNP officials to inform them of the assistance available and how to apply for it.
- A Request for Public Assistance must be filed by the grantee within 30 days after the area is designated eligible for assistance. This can be completed by going to [www.grantee.fema.gov](http://www.grantee.fema.gov).
- Following the Applicant's Briefing, an exploratory call and a Recovery Scoping Meeting is conducted to discuss your damages and to put a plan in place for your recovery.
- A combined federal, state, and local team proceeds with Project Formulation, which is the process of documenting the eligible facility, the eligible work, and the eligible cost for fixing the disaster related damages to every public or PNP facility identified by State, territorial, tribal, or local representatives.

### Public Assistance Categories of Work:

- Emergency work:
  - Category A: Debris removal
  - Category B: Emergency protective measures
- Permanent Work
  - Category C: Roads and bridges
  - Category D: Water control facilities
  - Category E: Public buildings and contents
  - Category F: Public utilities
  - Category G: Parks, recreational, and other facilities
  - Category Z: Direct Administrative Cost



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### Small Projects:

- Projects falling below a certain threshold are considered "small."
- The threshold is adjusted annually for inflation.
- For fiscal year 2020, small projects must be at least \$3,300 but less than \$131,100.
- For small projects, payment of the federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project and notification is required upon completion of the project.

### Large Projects:

- For fiscal year 2020, a large project is any project of \$131,100 or more.
- Payment for large projects are made on the basis of actual costs determined after the project is completed. Once FEMA obligates funds to the grantee, further management of the project, including disbursement to sub-grantees, is the responsibility of the grantee.
- Sub-grantees must submit a Request for Reimbursement (RFR) through [www.screcoverygrants.org](http://www.screcoverygrants.org). RFR should include documentation of costs related to eligible work.
- FEMA will continue to monitor the recovery progress to ensure the timely delivery of eligible assistance and compliance with the law and regulations.

### Project Periods of Performance:

From date of disaster declaration

- Emergency Work – 6 months
- Permanent Work – 18 months
- Based on extenuating circumstances or unusual project requirements the grantee may provide extensions:
  - Up to 6 additional months for emergency work (12 months maximum)
  - Up to 30 additional months for permanent work (48 months maximum)
- Requests for extensions beyond the grantee's authority may be granted by the FEMA Regional Administrator.