

MONTANA

PA

Public Assistance 101

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

To raise awareness of the 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, certain non-profit entities, those applying for and/or receiving recovery grants through the FEMA PA program and other recovery and mitigation stakeholders.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) GRANT PROGRAM

The Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program provides supplemental Federal assistance to State and local communities to return an area impacted by a Presidentially Declared disaster to its pre-disaster condition 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 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 and Territorial Governments	✓
Local Governments	✓
Private Nonprofit Organizations	✓

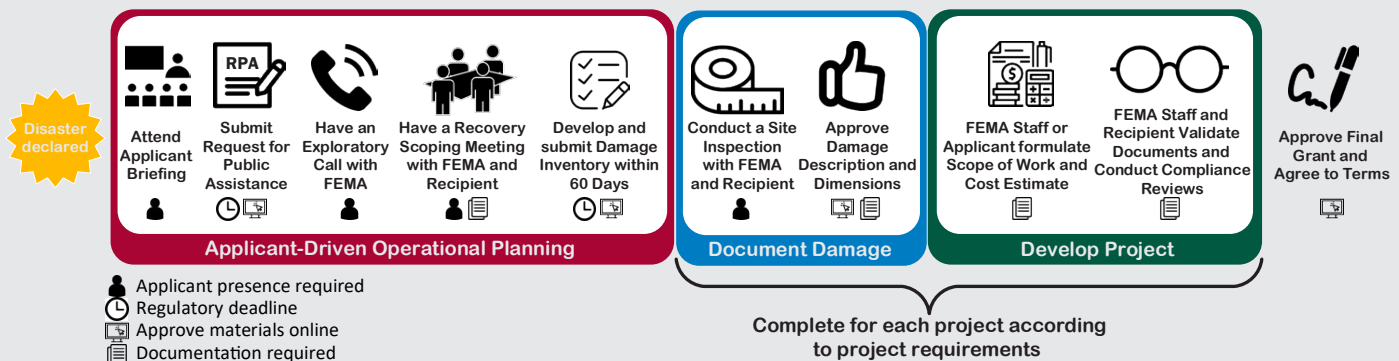
Federally recognized Tribal Governments can apply on their own directly to FEMA or through the State



COST SHARE

The funding for eligible work is typically a shared cost. The Federal share of assistance is generally not less than **75%** of the eligible cost for emergency work and permanent work. There are EXCEPTIONS under special circumstances.

PA AWARD PROCESS



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

APPLICANT

There are **three (3)** types of eligible Applicants for PA. If an entity meets the requirements of **one (1)** of these types, the Applicant may be eligible to receive Federal disaster assistance:

- **State and Territorial Governments;**
- **Local governments and special districts – for example, school districts, irrigation districts, fire districts and utility districts; and**
- **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.
 - Houses of Worship (HOW)
 - Co-Op Utilities

Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or authorized Tribal organizations can apply on their own directly to FEMA or through the State.

WORK

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

- Necessary as a direct result of a **declared incident;**
- Located within a **designated disaster area;** and
- The **legal responsibility** of an **eligible Applicant.**

FACILITY

The facility must be:

- Located in the designated disaster area;
- Damaged by the declared incident; and
- In active use and open to the general public at the start of the incident period.

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;
- Directly tied to the performance of eligible work; and
- Adequately documented.

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 (not directly listed, but administrative costs will be eligible costs for administering the Public Assistance grant program).

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

FEMA PA WORK CATEGORIES

EMERGENCY WORK

Category A Debris Removal

Category B Emergency
Protective
Measures

PERMANENT WORK

*Restoration of Disaster-damaged
Public Facilities and Property*

Category C Roads + Bridges

Category D Water Control
Facilities

Category E Buildings +
Equipment
Contents +

Category F Utilities

Category G Parks +
Recreational +
Other

Category I Building Code +
Floodplain
Management

APPLICATION PROCESS

An Applicant Briefing is conducted by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) as soon as feasible following a Presidential Declaration (PD). At the briefing, DES staff will address application procedures, administrative requirements, funding, and program eligibility criteria for potential Applicants.

Local communities, State and Territorial Governments, and private nonprofits (PNPs) apply for assistance from FEMA by completing a Request for Public Assistance (RPA). The RPA is FEMA's official application. The application must be submitted to FEMA through FEMA's grants management portal: grantee.fema.gov

The screenshot shows the 'Organization Profile' page for Stanton Township (041-76200-00) on the Grants Portal. The page is divided into several sections:

- General Information:** A table with fields for Organization Name (Stanton Township), State/Territory (Michigan State Police/EM/HSD), Type (City or Township Government), IS STATEWIDE? (No), ORGANIZATION STATUS (Eligible), FEMA PA CODE (061-76200-00), EIN NUMBER (38-2005834), DUNS NUMBER (144730764), and HAS GRANTS PORTAL LOGIN ACCESS? (Yes, with a 'DEACTIVATE LOGIN ACCESS' button).
- Personnel:** A section with a 'MANAGE' button.
- Locations:** A section with a 'MANAGE' button.
- Subdivisions and Departments:** A section with a '+ ADD SUBDIVISION/DEPARTMENT' button and an 'OPTIONS' dropdown.
- Counties with Managed Facilities or Services:** A section with a 'MANAGE' button.
- Insurance Profile:** A section with an 'UPLOAD INSURANCE DOCUMENTS' button and a 'HELP' icon.
- Applicant Event Profiles:** A section with a 'REQUEST PUBLIC ASSISTANCE' button.
- Documents:** A section with 'UPLOAD', 'DOWNLOAD', and 'MANAGE' buttons.
- Action Log:** A section with a dropdown arrow.

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, unless extended.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

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 www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/environmental-historic, as well as other codes, standards and regulations.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PA WORK

Eligibility rules are sometimes complex and can be confusing. To learn more, visit <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/policy-guidance-fact-sheets/job-aids-faqs>
 OR contact Montana Disaster and Emergency Services at desrecovery@mt.gov
 or 406-324-4777

EMERGENCY WORK

CATEGORY A: DEBRIS REMOVAL					
Trees + woody debris	✓	Emergency evacuations of medical and custodial care facilities	✓	Security in the declared disaster area	✓
Derelict Vessels	✓	Emergency mass care and shelter operations	✓	Transportation of disaster victims	✓
Building components or contents	✓	Emergency medical facilities	✓	Emergency tarping	✓
Sand + mud + silt + gravel	✓	Food + water + ice + other essential needs	✓	Generator run time for facilities that provide health and safety services	✓
Wreckage produced during conduct of emergency protective measures (for example, drywall)	✓	Nursing homes/ Assisted living facilities	✓	Removal of dead animals	✓
CATEGORY B: EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES		PNP facility emergency protective measures IF the facilities are otherwise eligible	✓	Vector control when serious pests/ mosquitoes threat	✓
Alerts + warning of risks + hazards	✓	Rescue + care + shelter + essential needs for household pets and service animals	✓	Under certain conditions, ice removal	✓
Building stabilization	✓	Search + rescue	✓		
Emergency communications	✓				

PERMANENT WORK

CATEGORY C: ROADS + BRIDGES (Non- FHWA)	
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	✓

Lift station repair	✓
CATEGORY E: BUILDING + EQUIPMENT	
Codes + standards upgrades or a portion of that work	✓
Contents	✓
Equipment	✓
Mold remediation	✓
Restoration through repair or replacement of damaged facilities to pre-disaster design + function	✓
Routine or delayed 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	✓
Beach renourishment	✓

PERMANENT WORK CONT

CATEGORY I: BUILDING CODE + FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

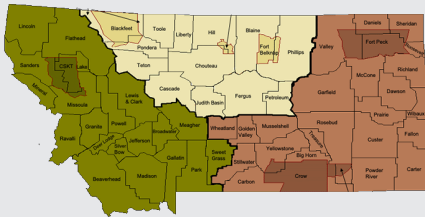
Contract for Services	✓
License Staff	✓
Field Surveys	✓
Establish Damage Trends	✓
Prepare Cost Information	✓
Damage Assessments	✓
Comparable Data for Substantial Damage	✓
Repetitive Loss	✓
Inventory of Structures	✓
Compliance Requirements	✓
Determination of Substantial improvements	✓
Historic Designation	✓
Non-Disaster Related Structures	✗
Updating Current Laws/ Regulations /Codes /Procedures	✗

Training to Staff	✓
Monitor Impacted Areas	✓
Inspect Structures	✓
Ensure Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Floodplain Regulations	✓

ACRONYMS

EHP	Environmental and Historic Preservation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
DES	Montana Disaster and Emergency Services
PA	Public Assistance
PD	Presidential Declaration
PNP	Private Nonprofit
RPA	Request for Public Assistance

REGIONAL MAP



REFERENCES

Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) - January 2025
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pa_pappg-v5.0_012025.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_public-assistance-fact-sheet.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Debris Removal Tips
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pa-category-a-debris-removal-ppdr-factsheet.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Management Costs
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_management-costs-interim_policy.pdf

Grants Portal Fact Sheet
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_grants-manager-grants-portal-tool_factsheet.pdf

Stafford Act - May 2021
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_stafford_act_2021_vol1.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Delivery Model
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_delivery-model_factsheet.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance PNP & Faith Based
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_private-nonprofit-eligibility-factsheet.pdf

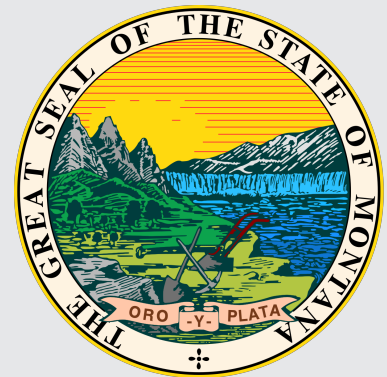
FEMA Public Assistance Contracting Requirements Checklist
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_contracting-requirements-checklist.pdf

Grants Portal Applicant User Manual
[https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20\(Mar%2028%202020\).pdf](https://grantee.fema.gov/Content/files/Applicant%20Quick%20Guide%20Grants%20Portal%20Account%20and%20RPA%20(Mar%2028%202020).pdf)

"Creating a Disaster Resilient Montana"

NEED HELP?

If you need assistance with a PA application, want to know more about PA funding opportunities; or want to be updated on current guidance or announcements, please contact via email desrecovery@mt.gov or call 406-324-4777.



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