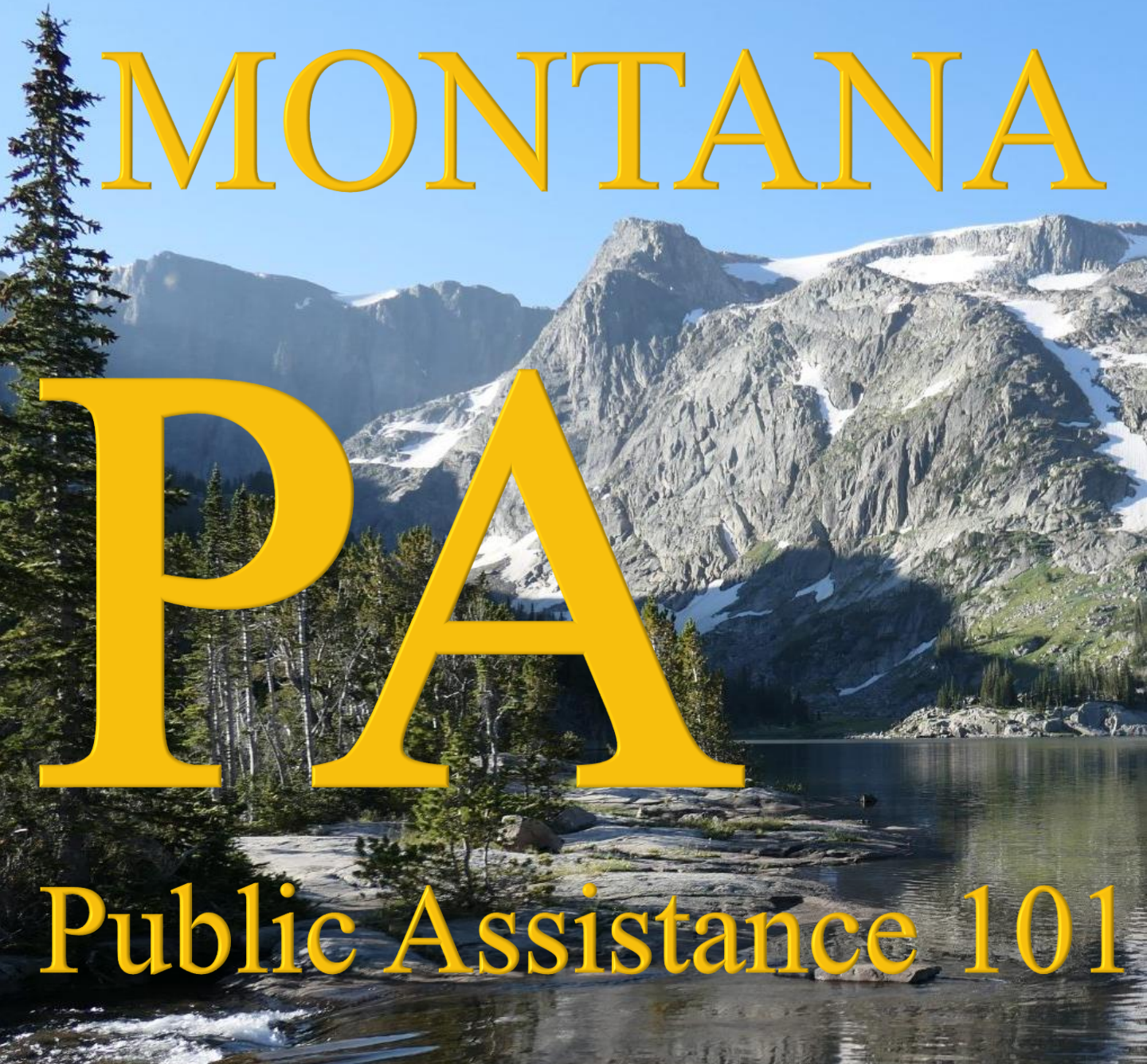




PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION

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

WORK

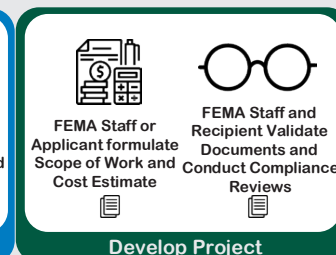
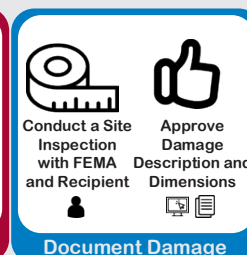
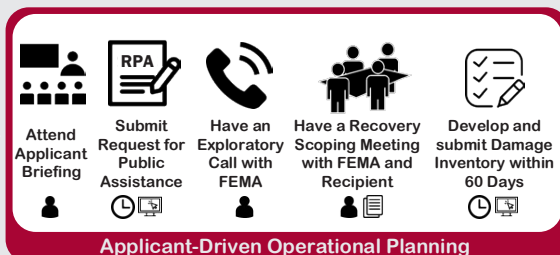
FACILITY

APPLICANT

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



- Applicant presence required
- Regulatory deadline
- Approve materials online
- Documentation required

Complete for each project according to project requirements

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

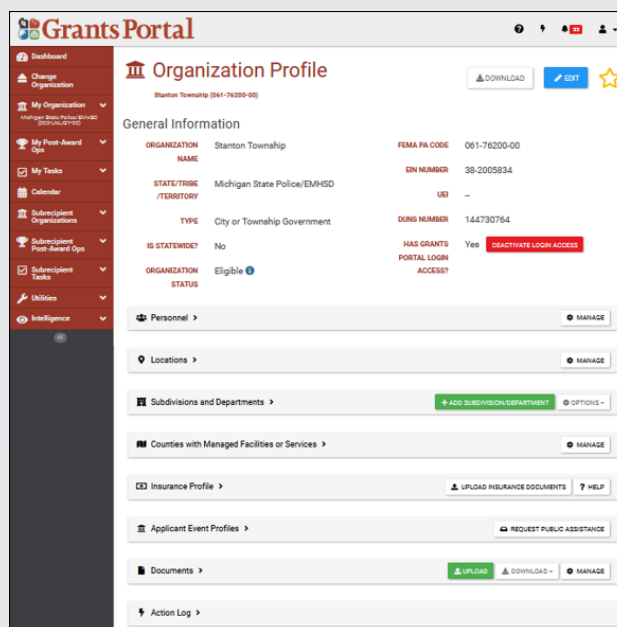
Category G Parks +
Recreational +
Other

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 'Grants Portal' interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with options like 'Dashboard', 'Change Organization', 'My Organization', 'My Post-Award Ops', 'My Tasks', 'Calendar', 'Subrecipient Organizations', 'Subrecipient Post-Award Ops', 'Subrecipient Tasks', 'Utilities', and 'Intelligence'. The main content area is titled 'Organization Profile' for 'Stanton Township (041-76200-00)'. It includes a 'General Information' section with fields for Organization Name, State/Territory, Type, IS STATEWIDE?, Organization Status, FEMA PA CODE, EIN NUMBER, UFI, DUNS NUMBER, HAS GRANTS, and PORTAL LOGIN ACCESS. Below this are sections for Personnel, Locations, Subdivisions and Departments, Counties with Managed Facilities or Services, Insurance Profile, Applicant Event Profiles, Documents, and an Action Log.

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



Derelict Vessels



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



Nursing homes/
Assisted living
facilities



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



Emergency tarping



Generator run time
for facilities that
provide health and
safety services



Removal of dead
animals



Vector control
when serious pests/
mosquitoes threat



Under certain
conditions, ice
removal



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

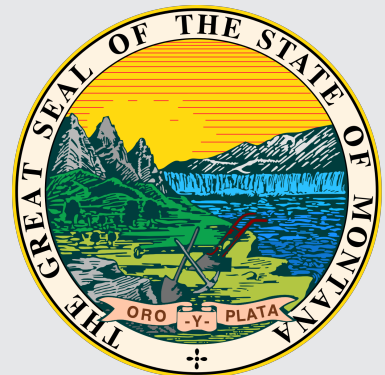
FEMA Public Assistance Contracting Requirements Checklist
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_contracting-requirements-checklist.pdf

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.



This public document is published by Montana Disaster and Emergency Services for the purpose of providing public information and education to the Applicants of the State of Montana. This document was prepared under grants from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant program. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of DHS or FEMA. This public document was produced in collaboration between Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES) and support provided through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).