

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 States 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	✓

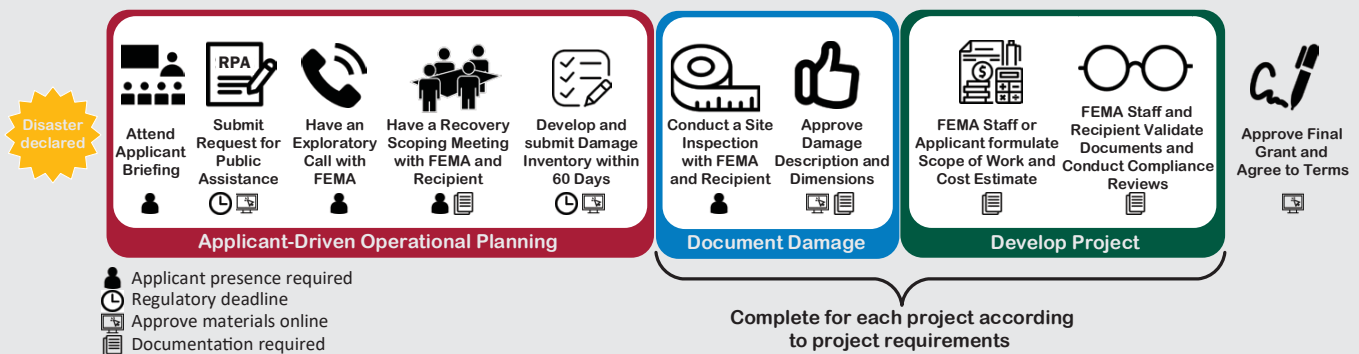
Federally recognized Tribal Governments can apply on their own directly to FEMA or through the State



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 certain circumstances, the Federal share may be **90%** or even **100%**.

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 a **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 +
Contents +
Equipment

Category F Utilities

Category G Parks +
Recreational +
Other

APPLICATION PROCESS

An **Applicant Briefing** is conducted by the 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 displays the 'GrantsPortal' interface for an organization profile. The header shows the organization name 'Stanton Township (041-74200-00)'. The main content area is titled 'Organization Profile' and includes a 'DOWNLOAD' button and an 'EDIT' button. The profile is divided into several sections: 'General Information' with fields for Organization Name, State/Territory, Type, and Eligibility; 'Personnel', 'Locations', 'Subdivisions and Departments', 'Counties with Managed Facilities or Services', 'Insurance Profile', 'Applicant Event Profiles', 'Documents', and 'Action Log'. Each section has a 'MANAGE' button. The 'Documents' section includes 'UPLOAD', 'DOWNLOAD', and 'MANAGE' buttons. The 'Insurance Profile' section has 'UPLOAD INSURANCE DOCUMENTS' and 'HELP' buttons. The 'Applicant Event Profiles' section has a 'REQUEST PUBLIC ASSISTANCE' button.

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 fema.gov/office-environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation, 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/public-assistance-frequently-asked-questions> OR contact Montana Disaster and Emergency Services at mtdes@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	✓
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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	X
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Temporary or permanent relocation	✓
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Under certain circumstances, ADA compliance work or a portion of that work	✓
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CATEGORY F: UTILITIES

Communications	✓
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Power generation + distribution	✓
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Sewage collection systems	✓
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Water treatment plants + distribution	✓
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CATEGORY G: PARKS + RECREATION + OTHER

Fish hatcheries	✓
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Golf courses	✓
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Mass transit facilities	✓
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Picnic tables	✓
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Piers + boat docks	✓
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Playground equipment	✓
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Swimming pools + bath houses	✓
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Tennis courts	✓
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Trees + ground cover + landscaping	X
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Other facilities that do not fit in Categories C – F	✓
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Beach renourishment	✓
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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) - June 2020

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pappg-v4-updated-links_policy_6-1-2020.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance

<https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/policy-guidance-fact-sheets>

FEMA Public Assistance Debris Removal Tips

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_pa_debris-removal-tips.pdf

FEMA Public Assistance Management Costs

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/PA_Management_Costs_Interim_Policy_11-15-201830.pdf

Grants Portal Fact Sheet

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1499785988024-b612207fc13ed6623850c0796f640a57/GrantsMgr_PortalFactSheet2017A.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/press-release/20210318/fact-sheet-private-nonprofits-including-faith-based-organizations-may-apply>

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://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/06/Grants%20Portal%20Applicant%20User%20Manual%20v3-%202012-01-17%20compressed.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 be **updated** on **current guidance** or **announcements**, please contact **mtdes@mt.gov** or 406-324-4777.



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