

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Public assistance is that part of disaster relief through which the federal government supplements the efforts of state and local governments to reduce threats to public health and safety, and return the disaster area to pre-disaster conditions. These efforts primarily address debris removal, emergency protective measures and the repair or replacement of public facilities and infrastructure that have been damaged or destroyed.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State government agencies, local governments, (including special districts), federally recognized Indian tribes and certain private nonprofit organizations that provide services of a governmental nature. The damaged facilities and emergency work need to be in a federally declared county.

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

Grants and limited technical assistance.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Funds are not capped. All eligible projects receive funding.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Federal government and state Division of Emergency Management.

APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES

- (1) Once a federal disaster is declared, including the applicant's county, a request for public assistance (RPA) is submitted online at www.floridapa.org. The RPA needs to be submitted within 30 days from declaration.
- (2) The county emergency management director notifies potential applicants to attend an applicant briefing where the public-assistance process is explained.
- (3) The state and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public-assistance coordinators schedule a kick-off meeting to begin development of project worksheets to estimate scope of work and eligible damages. Damages must be identified within 60 days of the kickoff meeting.
- (4) The applicant executes a funding agreement with the Division of Emergency Management.
- (5) Project worksheets are reviewed and obligated by FEMA.
- (6) The applicant submits a request for reimbursement and summary of documentation for large projects (currently those over \$59,700) and payment is processed; smaller projects are paid when obligated.
- (7) The Division of Emergency Management performs interim and final inspections until project conclusion and closeout.
- (8) Emergency work projects need to be completed within six months of the declaration date, permanent work projects within 18 months.

(over)

MATCHING/OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Seventy-five percent federal, except large disasters are 90-percent federal. The non-federal share is distributed according to Florida Statute 252.37.

CONTACT

Go to www.floridapa.org for more information.

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