



# Public Assistance | Individual Assistance POST-DISASTER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

## Overview

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program provides financial and direct assistance to help communities recover from disasters and emergencies. This includes:

- Emergency response - debris removal, emergency protective measures, emergency communication, emergency public transportation
- Infrastructure restoration - restoring public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, buildings, and parks
- Hazard mitigation - protecting damaged facilities from future events

### INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

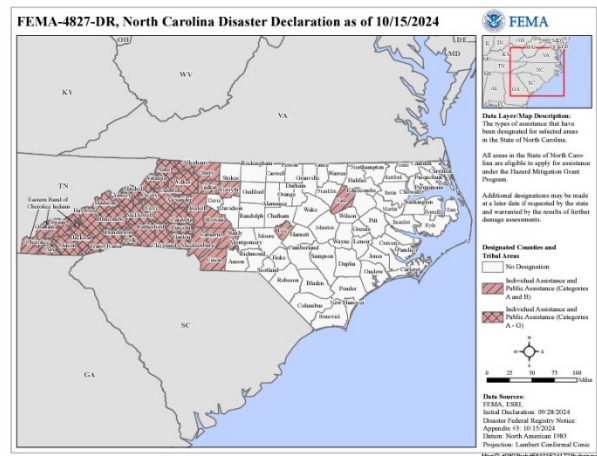
FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) Program provides financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster who have uninsured or underinsured expenses and serious needs. This includes:

- Housing - temporary housing costs/housing units, repair/replacement of owner-occupied homes, home repair/rebuild
- Emergency supplies - food, water, baby formula
- Damages - essential household items, cars
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Child-care expenses
- Medical and dental expenses
- Moving and storage expenses

### FEMA 4827-DR North Carolina Disaster Declaration

Original Presidential declaration - September 28, 2024

[Current designated areas](#)



### Reference Documents and Guides

- [FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(PAPPG\) version 4](#)
- [FEMA Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(IAPPG\) version 1.1](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\) Program and Policy Guide](#)
- [FEMA Public Assistance Simplified Procedures Policy](#)
- [FEMA New Recipients of Disaster Guide](#)
- [Public Assistance Project Templates and Forms](#)



# Public Assistance | Individual Assistance

## POST-DISASTER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

### Process

#### Presidential Declaration of Emergency

- Governor or Tribal Chief Executive requests a declaration from the President through FEMA within 30 days of the end of the incident
- The declaration designates the types of federal programs and assistance available (varies based on disaster needs)

#### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

##### Eligible Work

- **Short-term Emergency Work** - efforts to save lives; protect property, public health, and safety; and reduce or avert a catastrophe

*Complete within 6 months*

<b>Category A</b>	Debris removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of debris and wreckage from public and private property</li> </ul>
<b>Category B</b>	Emergency protective measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Search and rescue</li> <li>- Emergency transportation</li> <li>- Emergency food and first aid</li> </ul>

- **Permanent Work** - available through a major disaster declaration, includes efforts to repair, restore, reconstruct, or replace disaster-damaged public and eligible private nonprofit facilities

*Complete within 18 months (unless extended)*

<b>Category C</b>	Roads and bridges
<b>Category D</b>	Water control facilities (including dams and levees)
<b>Category E</b>	Buildings and equipment (including eligible building contents)
<b>Category F</b>	Utilities (gas, power, water, communication, sewage facilities)
<b>Category G</b>	Parks, recreational facilities, other (including railways, beaches, piers, ports, and harbors)

##### Reimbursement

The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to reimburse 75% (or more) of the eligible costs of specific types of disaster response and recovery work.

*The President increased the federal cost-share to 100% for the first 180 days of the Hurricane Helene incident.*

#### INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

##### Eligibility

- U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified non-citizen
- Verifiable identity (verified by FEMA)
- Applicant's insurance or other disaster assistance received cannot meet disaster-caused needs
- Applicant's necessary expenses and serious needs are directly caused by a declared disaster

##### Process

- 1 Make a list of damaged/lost items and take photographs of damaged home and belongings
- 2 Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance:
  - Online: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
  - Smartphone: [FEMA app](#)
  - Phone: (800) 621-3362
  - In person: [FEMA Disaster Recovery Center](#)
- 3 Have your home inspected by a FEMA inspector, if required
- 4 Receive FEMA funding (or appeal, if denied)



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### Category B: Emergency Protective Measures

Whether through contracting, self-performed, or other partnerships, the costs associated with the items below are generally reimbursable through FEMA.

Emergency protective measures conducted before, during, and after an incident are eligible if they:

- Eliminate or lessen immediate threats to lives, public health, or safety; or
- Eliminate or lessen immediate threats of significant additional damage to improved public or private property in a cost-effective manner.

FEMA may require certification from Federal, State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial (SLTT) government officials that a threat exists. This certification includes:

- Identification and evaluation of the threat; and
- Recommendations for necessary work to address the threat.

### Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Considerations:

While emergency protective measures are generally exempt from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, FEMA must ensure compliance with other Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders (EOs) before funding any work. FEMA must ensure that emergency protective measures do not impact resources such as floodplains, wetlands, endangered species, critical habitats, and historic properties.

### Saving Lives and Protecting Public Health and Safety

Emergency protective measures that save lives or protect public health and safety are eligible, including:

- Transporting and pre-positioning equipment and resources for response
- Flood fighting
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) costs
- Emergency access
- Certain temporary repairs
- Supplies and commodities
- Medical care and transport
- Evacuation and sheltering, including assistance provided by another State or Tribal government
- Childcare services
- Safety inspections
- Removal of animal carcasses
- Demolition of structures
- Temporary relocation of essential services
- Search and rescue operations for survivors, pets, and service animals
- Firefighting
- Security measures such as barricades, fencing, or law enforcement
- Use or lease of temporary generators for facilities providing essential community services
- Dissemination of public information to provide health and safety guidance
- Search and recovery of human remains
- Storage and interment of unidentified human remains

### Protecting Improved Property

Eligible emergency protective measures to protect improved property include:

- Constructing emergency berms or temporary levees for flood or landslide protection
- Emergency repairs to prevent further damage (e.g., covering a damaged roof)
- Buttressing, shoring, or bracing facilities to prevent collapse
- Emergency slope stabilization
- Mold remediation
- Removal and storage of facility contents to minimize additional damage
- Water extraction and clearing of debris from facilities to address immediate threats

### Emergency Protective Measures on Private Property

In limited cases, FEMA may determine that emergency protective measures on private property are eligible if:

- The threat is widespread and affects numerous homes and businesses, posing a threat to public health and safety
- The Applicant has legal authority to perform the work
- The Applicant obtained rights-of-entry and agreements to indemnify and hold harmless the Federal government



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### Immediate Steps in the Post-Disaster PA Process

STEP	DETAILS	TIMEFRAME
<b>Applicant Briefing</b>	Recipient conducts briefings for all potential applicants (state, territorial, tribal, local governments, non-profits) to educate applicants on the PA program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Recipient</i> - non-federal entity that receives an award from a federal agency (e.g., state, territorial, or tribal government)</li> <li>▪ <i>Applicant</i> - non-federal entity that applies to be a <i>Subrecipient</i> of assistance under a <i>Recipient's</i> federal award</li> </ul>	As soon as possible following a Presidential declaration
<b>Request for Public Assistance (RPA)</b>	Applicant notifies FEMA that it intends to apply for PA funds (includes general information about the organization, location, and point of contact) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">FEMA RPA form</a></li> <li>▪ Submit through the <a href="#">FEMA Grants Portal</a></li> </ul>	Within <b>30 days</b> of the declaration designation for the area
<b>Schedule a Recovery Scoping Meeting (RSM)</b>	Recipient schedules an RSM with the Applicant to discuss details of the Applicant's impacts from the incident	Within <b>10 days</b> of receiving notice of RPA approval
<b>Conduct RSM for approved RPAs</b>	Recipient hosts an RSM with FEMA and the Applicant to provide an overview of requirements and expectations	Within <b>21 days</b> of approval of the RPA
<b>Identify and report damage inventory</b>	Recipient identifies and submits to FEMA a list of all disaster-related damage, emergency work (Categories A and B), and debris quantities	Within <b>60 days</b> of the RSM
<b>Conduct Exit Briefing</b>	Recipient conducts an Exit Briefing with the Applicant when project formulation is complete, and all claimed damage is documented	When project formulation is complete
<b>Complete all Emergency Work</b>	Complete all Emergency Work PA projects and debris removal	Within <b>six months</b> of disaster declaration <sup>1</sup>
<b>Complete all Permanent Work</b>	Complete all Permanent Work PA projects	Within <b>18 months</b> of disaster declaration

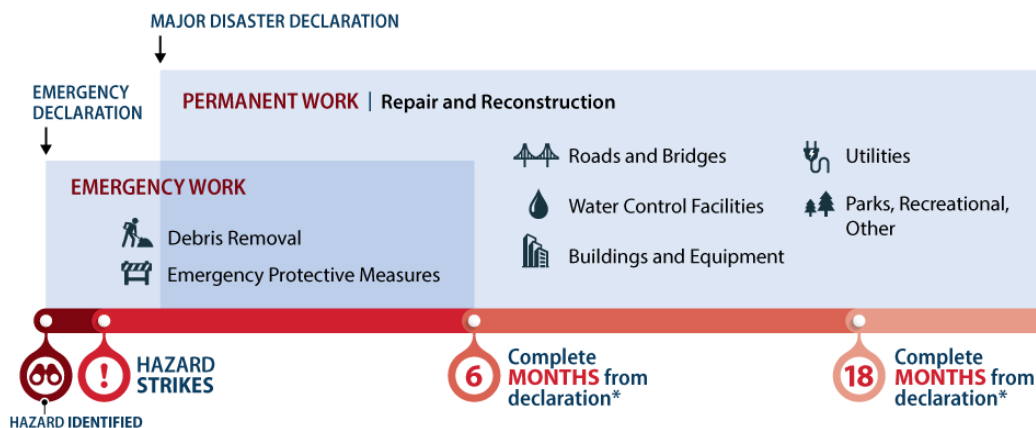


Figure 1. General Timing and Categories of Public Assistance Programs

<sup>1</sup> Applicant may request additional time to complete Emergency Work by submitting a written request for an extension