



How Schools and Higher Ed Institutions Can Access FEMA's Public Assistance Program



U.S. Department of Education
Office of Safe and Healthy Students

Housekeeping

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Questions & Answers

Please pose any questions using the chat box visible on the screen.

Webinar Presenters

Public Assistance Division,
Federal Emergency
Management Agency



FEMA

Office of Safe and Healthy
Students,
U.S. Department of Education



Agenda

Overview of FEMA's Public Assistance Program

Review of Application to Educational Facilities

Q&A Session

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program

FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for:

- Debris removal
 - Note: Must be from applicant's maintained property
- Emergency protective measures
 - Note: Must be related to your facility and address immediate threat to life or property
- Repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and those of certain private non-profit organizations

Eligible Applicants and Conditions

Eligible applicants are State, Local, Tribal and Territorial governments, and certain private non-profit organizations including:

- Elementary or secondary educational schools, or
- Higher-education institutions that meet certain conditions

Conditions:

- Will not duplicate insurance or other grant programs
- Must comply with grant requirements including procurement, document maintenance, environmental and historic preservation, and insurance

APPLICANT BRIEFING

- Briefing is scheduled and conducted by the State and Tribal governments
- Apply for Public Assistance
- Learn about the program



FEMA Program Delivery Manager
The single point-of-contact assigned to provide customer service to Applicants throughout the Public Assistance process

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATION PROCESS

WITHIN 7 DAYS

EXPLORATORY CALL

- Introduction to your Program Delivery Manager
- Get an initial sense of needs and damage
- Identify who needs to be at Recovery Scoping Meeting

WITHIN 21 DAYS

RECOVERY SCOPING MEETING

- In-depth meeting to review damages
- Gather documentation
- Develop list of projects
- Talk through your priorities

SITE INSPECTION(S)
if necessary

WITHIN 60 DAYS



INTAKE DAMAGE & ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

- Disaster-related damages captured and documented



SCOPING & COSTING

- Based on site visits and documentation
- To be reviewed for eligibility



FINAL REVIEW & SIGN-OFF

- Quality assurance reviews for accuracy
- Project acceptance by Applicant



RECEIVE FUNDING

KEY POINTS:

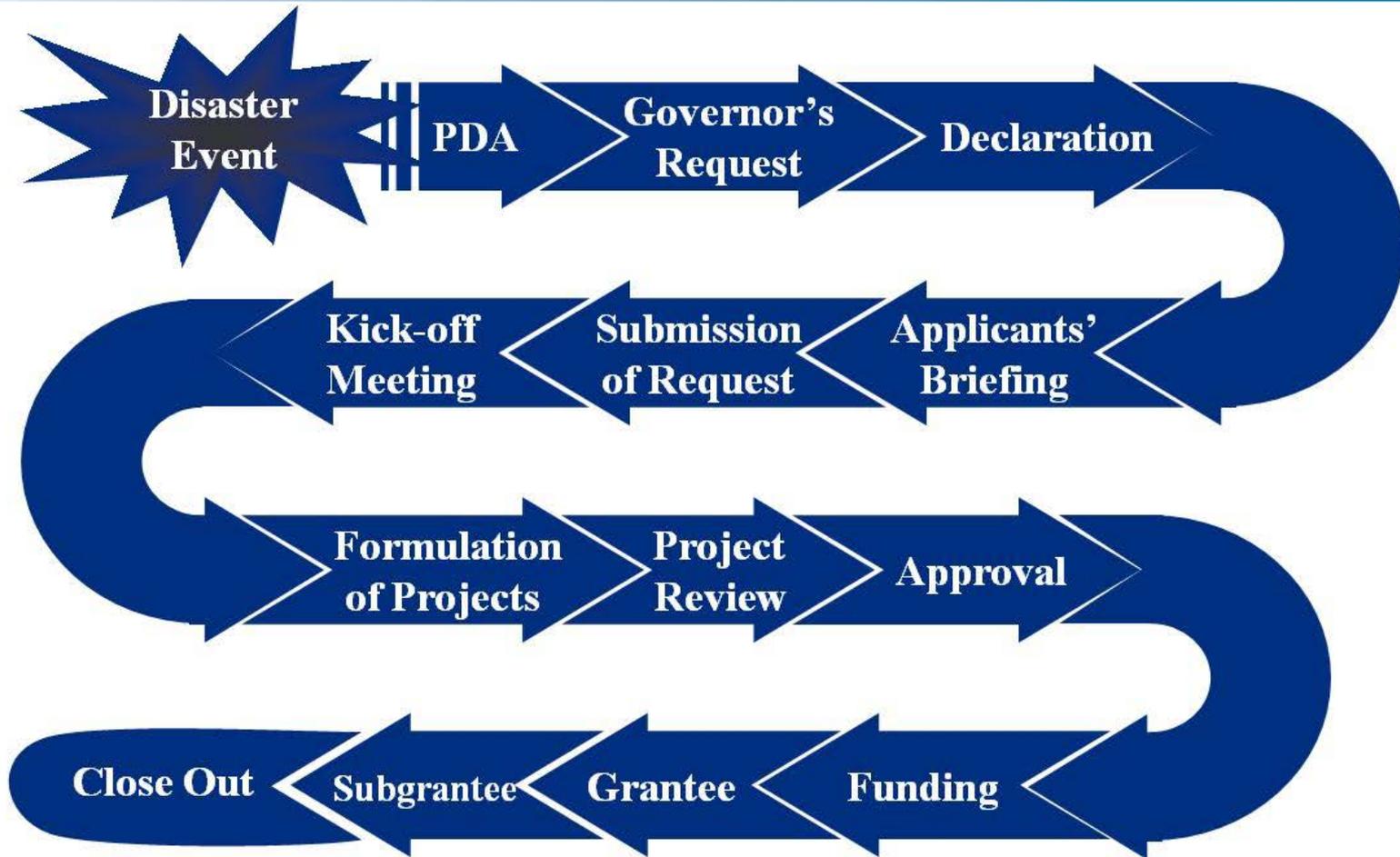
You drive your recovery. The quicker you provide documentation & the more complete it is, the faster you will receive assistance.

You will have support. Your state representative and FEMA program delivery manager are there to help you navigate the process.

Document. Document. Document.
All costs must be documented.



PA Program Process



PA Program and Policy Guide



Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide

FP 104-009-2 / April 2017



Combines all Public Assistance (PA) policy into a single volume and provides an overview of the PA Program implementation process

PA Program and Educational Facilities Fact Sheet



Fact Sheet

Public Assistance Program and Educational Facilities Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program, under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), as amended, can provide grants for educational facilities after a Presidentially declared major disaster that involves a public assistance clause. Under the Public Assistance Program, FEMA can assist applicants [State, local and Tribal governments and certain Private Nonprofit (PNP) entities] with the response to and recovery from major disasters and emergencies. Specifically, the program provides assistance for the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged facilities, and for the cost of debris removal and emergency protective measures. The program also encourages protection from future damage by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

The State, in most cases, acts as the Grantee for the Public Assistance Program. The State is responsible for implementing and monitoring the grants awarded under the program. The State provides information to potential applicants and works with FEMA to manage the program. The applicants are responsible for identifying damage, providing sufficient data to develop an accurate scope and cost estimate for doing the work, and managing their approved projects.

The Public Assistance process is outlined below:



"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."

October 4, 2011

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Answers frequently
asked questions
related to the PA
Program and
educational facilities

Additional Information

Program Overview & Policies

- www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit

Video Overview Series

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCIJp91Ds2IaVIR1t8uXcEKg/videos

Agenda

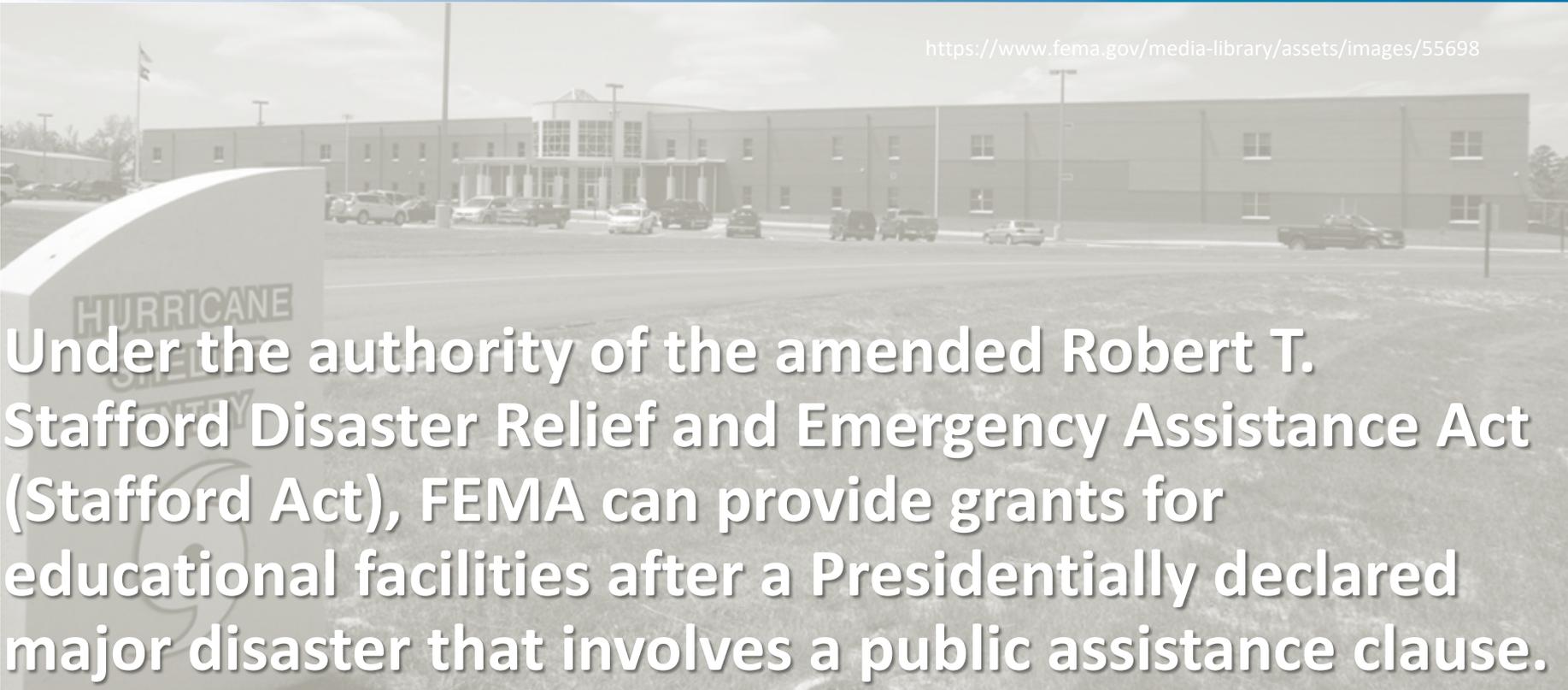
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Application to Educational Facilities

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/images/55698>



Under the authority of the amended Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), FEMA can provide grants for educational facilities after a Presidentially declared major disaster that involves a public assistance clause.

How does the PA Program define an educational institution?

Public K-12 Schools

Nonpublic K-12 Schools

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

Public K-12 Schools

Day or residential school that provides primary and secondary education as determined under State law

School satisfies State requirements for compulsory attendance

Nonpublic K-12 Schools

A religious-oriented private non-profit school must primarily be used for secular education purposes

If the facility is primarily for religious purposes or instruction, it is not eligible for assistance

Institutions of Higher Education

Admits students possessing a high school diploma or equivalent

Legally authorized to provide education beyond the secondary level

Awards a bachelor's degree or a two-year degree that is acceptable as full credit towards a bachelor's degree

Is a public or private nonprofit institution

Is accredited by a nationally recognized agency or association (as determined by the Secretary of the Department of Education)

PA Funding to Educational Facilities



Funding may be available to:

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/images/61315>

- Repair or replace eligible educational facilities, including buildings, housing, and classrooms.
- Purchase related supplies, equipment, machinery, and building systems
- Provide temporary facilities for classrooms if an eligible educational institution has been damaged or destroyed in a major disaster

Insurance for Educational Facilities

Disaster assistance will not be provided for damage or losses covered by insurance.

Insurance coverage must be subtracted from all applicable Public Assistance funding in order to avoid duplication of financial assistance.

Funding for Safe Rooms for Schools

To seek funding for a safe room as part of a temporary school facility, submit a written request to obtain prior approval. The request needs to include:

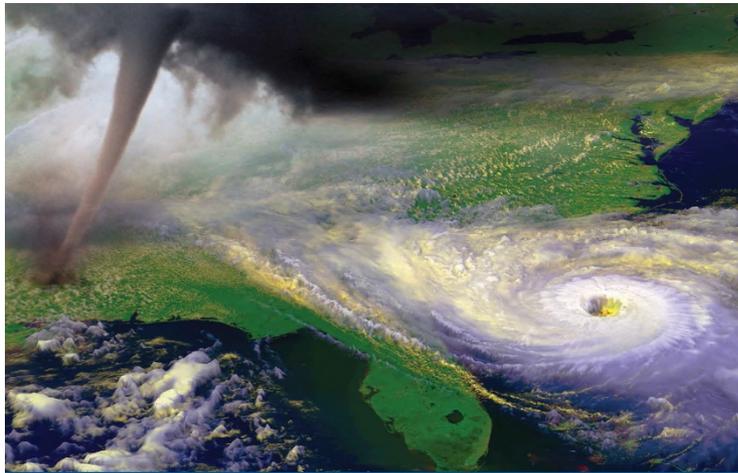
A description of the safe room or safe space that was used as a storm shelter prior to the incident;

The population of students and faculty that need access to the safe room;

Verification that no other cost-effective reasonable alternatives are within proximity that can be used as a safe space for the school population; and

An indication that the Applicant will have the safe room installed and operational when school resumes and students occupy the temporary classroom space.

Funding for Safe Rooms for Schools



Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes

Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms

FEMA P-361, Third Edition / March 2015



Safe rooms provided as part of a temporary school facility must comply with the requirements of this guidance.

Funding for Schools as Congregate Shelters

FEMA provides PA funding to applicants for costs related to emergency sheltering for survivors.

Typically such sheltering occurs in facilities with large open spaces, including schools.

FEMA refers to these shelters as congregate shelters.

Special PA Program Terminology

Pre-Disaster Function

The function for which the facility was originally designed or subsequently modified.

Critical Action

An action for which even a slight chance of flooding is too great. The minimum floodplain of concern for critical actions is the 500-year floodplain (also referred to as the critical action floodplain).

Consolidated Projects

Applicants can combine two or more capped projects into a single project, creating a Consolidated Project.

PA Program Compliance

Compliance with the following is required:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Architectural Barriers Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act

For more information, reference FEMA's policy on the subject: Response and Recovery Policy 9525.5, *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Access Requirements* (http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1751-25045-6408/pa_policies.txt)

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Q&A Session



Question 1

What defines an eligible primary and secondary educational institution under the Public Assistance Program?

- Educational institutions encompass primary, secondary, and higher education schools. For primary and secondary schools, an educational institution is a day or residential school that provides primary and secondary education as determined under State law. This generally means that the school satisfies State requirements for compulsory attendance.

Question 2

What does FEMA recognize as an eligible higher education institution?

- A higher educational institution is recognized as one that:
 - admits students possessing a high school diploma or equivalent;
 - is legally authorized to provide education beyond the secondary level;
 - awards a bachelor's degree or a two-year degree that is acceptable as full credit towards a bachelor's degree;
 - is a public or PNP institution; and
 - is accredited by a nationally recognized agency or association (as determined by the Secretary of the Department of Education).

Question 3

Does the educational facility have to be used for secular educational purposes?

- A religious-oriented private non-profit that restricts enrollments to students of a particular religious faith will be eligible for assistance if the school is *primarily* used for secular educational purposes. Conversely, if the facility is primarily for religious purposes or instruction, it is not eligible for assistance.

Question 4

How does an educational institution apply for Public Assistance?

- Assistance is only available if the President declares a major disaster or emergency under the authority of the Stafford Act. The educational institution or appropriate governmental jurisdiction must submit a *Request for Public Assistance (RPA)*, FEMA Form 90-49, to FEMA within 30 days after the date of designation of the area where the damage occurred. FEMA and the State will review to determine applicant eligibility. The educational institution or appropriate governmental jurisdiction will be notified by FEMA or the State of its eligibility.

Question 5

Does the Public Assistance grant have a cost share?

- Yes. Eligible projects have a Federal share of not less than 75 percent of eligible costs. The Grantee (i.e., State or Tribal government) determines whether it will contribute to the non-Federal share and/or if the applicants will be responsible for the 25 percent non-Federal share.

Question 6

Is funding available to repair or replace educational facilities?

- Yes. Funding may be available to repair or replace eligible educational facilities, including buildings, housing, and classrooms. It also includes related supplies, equipment, machinery, and building systems, e.g., HVAC, of an educational facility necessary or appropriate for instructional, administrative, and support purposes.

Question 7

Is funding available to provide temporary classrooms?

- Yes. Funding may be available to provide temporary facilities for classrooms if an eligible educational institution has been damaged or destroyed in a major disaster.

Question 8

What facilities are ineligible for temporary relocation assistance?

- Facilities ineligible for temporary relocation assistance include: recreation, parking facilities, athletic stadiums, research and warehouse facilities, and student union buildings, as these facilities are not considered to provide essential community services.

Question 9

Can an applicant lease space to store property and contents if a facility is ineligible for temporary facilities?

- Yes. If an applicant has a facility that does not meet the eligibility requirements for temporary relocation assistance, reimbursement may be eligible for temporary space to store and protect property.

Question 10

Is funding available to replace buses?

- Yes, if the educational institution owns and is responsible for maintaining the damaged or destroyed vehicle(s), replacement funding is available when equipment, including vehicles, is not repairable. FEMA will approve funding based on the cost of items that are approximately the same age, capacity, and condition.

Question 11

Is funding available to repair or replace a daycare facility within the damaged or destroyed educational facility?

- Yes. Funding may be available to repair or replace a daycare facility within the damaged or destroyed educational facility if it is owned by or under the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant.

Question 12

Is the repair or replacement of equipment and furnishings eligible for funding?

- Yes. The repair or replacement of equipment and furnishings are eligible for reimbursement if damaged or destroyed by the declared event. Examples of eligible equipment and furnishings may include such items as: administrative office equipment and furniture, science and computer labs, musical equipment, art equipment, gym equipment and sports equipment, scoreboards, and cafeteria equipment.

Question 13

Is the purchase of computer data recovery services for damaged hard drives eligible for funding?

- Yes. If a properly procured services contract was awarded, then recovering data from eligible educational institution's computer hard-drives is eligible work.

Question 14

Is funding available to replace homework software systems?

- Yes. If the homework software systems are the property of the eligible applicant and the damage was directly caused the event, then Public Assistance may be available.

Question 15

Is the recovery of student and personnel information systems eligible for funding?

- Yes. The eligible costs would only be related to data recovery if the ownership of the data is that of the eligible educational institution.

Question 16

How will FEMA handle insurance for educational facilities?

- Disaster assistance will not be provided for damage or losses covered by insurance. Insurance coverage must be subtracted from all applicable Public Assistance funding in order to avoid duplication of financial assistance. The Applicant must also obtain insurance on damaged insurable facilities (buildings, equipment, contents, and vehicles) as a condition of receiving Public Assistance grant funding. In addition, the Applicant must maintain insurance on those facilities in order to be eligible for Public Assistance funding in future disasters.

Question 17

What if another Federal agency has the authority to provide disaster assistance funding or resources?

- Public Assistance is not available when funding or resources are available from another Federal agency.

Pose Your Questions

To ask a question, use the chat box visible on the screen.

You can also email us at info@remstacenter.org.



Further Information



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