

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Introduction: The objective of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is to provide assistance to States, local governments, and certain Non-Profit organizations to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations.

The Federal share of assistance is not less than 75% of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration. The grantee (usually the State) determines how the non-Federal share (up to 25%) is split with the subgrantees (eligible applicants).

After a natural or man-made event that causes extensive damage, FEMA coordinates with the State to implement the Public Assistance Grant Program. The funding process consists of some of the following steps:

The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA): is a joint assessment used to determine the magnitude and impact of an event's damage. A FEMA/State team will usually visit local applicants and view their damage first-hand to assess the scope of damage and estimate repair costs. The State uses the results of the PDA to determine if the situation is beyond the combined capabilities of the State and local resources and to verify the need for supplemental Federal assistance. The PDA also identifies any unmet needs that may require immediate attention.

Presidential Disaster Declaration: Once a disaster has occurred, and the State has declared a state of emergency, the State will evaluate the recovery capabilities of the State and local governments. If it is determined that the damage is beyond their recovery capability, the governor will normally send a request letter to the President, directed through the Regional Director of the appropriate FEMA region. The President then makes the decision whether or not to declare a major disaster or emergency.

After a presidential declaration has been made, FEMA will designate the area eligible for assistance and announce the types of assistance available. FEMA provides supplemental assistance for State and local government recovery expenses, and the Federal share will always be at least 75 percent of the eligible costs.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Public Assistance (PA) Program is administered through a coordinated effort between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State (grantee), and the applicants (subgrantees).

While all three entities must work together to meet the overall objective of quick, effective program delivery, each has a different role.

FEMA's primary responsibilities are to determine the amount of funding, participate in educating the applicant on specific program issues and procedures, assist the applicant with the development of projects, and review the projects for compliance.

Additional information regarding the Public Assistance grant Program can be found on the FEMA web-site at:

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm>