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# WHAT IS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA)

- **PA is FEMA's Federal Grant Reimbursement Program that is Offered after a Presidentially Declared Disaster**
- Administered by PEMA
- For Emergency and Permanent Repair or Replacement of Event Damaged Infrastructure
- Permanent Repair or Replacement Value Based on Value of what you had at the time of the disaster, not what the Replacement will be
- **You must Officially Apply for Assistance**
  - Request For Public Assistance (RPA)
- DOES NOT include Individual Assistance (IA) or Small Business Administration (SBA)

# Public Assistance

## CURRENT STATS

### Irene and Lee Combined Stats

- 44 Declared Counties – Many in Both Declarations
- Over 2,100 Applicants – 123 are Authorities
- Over 7,100 Projects
- Over \$220M approved so far

# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS PRE-DECLARATION

- The Disaster Event Occurs
- Responsible Jurisdictions Respond
- **Municipalities report PA damages to their Counties, then the Counties report to PEMA via a on-line Damage Reporter**
- **Authorities not owned by a municipality should report their post-event damages to their County Emergency Management Office.**
- PEMA evaluates the PA damage reports based on:
  - Dollar VALUE
  - IMPACT
- PEMA asks FEMA for a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)
- The Governor asks the President for an Emergency or a Major Disaster

# WHEN THE PDA DAY COMES

- Your County will contact you with the place and time for a PDA site visit
- **Have a list of damages and costs**
- Provide photos
- Describe impact on essential facilities and services
- We want your “best guess” of your total cost
  - **Costs must be based on “Pre-Disaster Condition and Capacity”**

# Dollar Criteria for a Disaster Declaration

- **COUNTY \$3.39 per person (2010 census)**  
Example: County population of 100,000 x \$3.39 = **\$339,000.00**
- **COMMONWEALTH \$1.35 per person (2010 census)**  
Population 12,702,379 x \$1.35 = **\$17,148,212.**
- **BOTH DOLLAR AMOUNTS MUST BE MET before a FEMA declaration can be requested**
- Adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index

# DOCUMENTING YOUR DISASTER COSTS

- **Start a Disaster Folder Immediately**
- Things to put in it:
  - Photographs of PA damage, debris, disaster activity & flood levels / snow depths
  - Timesheets, emergency contracts, bills & invoices
  - Estimates of repair, replacement & cleanup costs
  - Maps showing damage & debris sites
  - Insurance policies, claims correspondence & any DEP or other permits

# CENTRE COUNTY





# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS POST-DECLARATION

- **PEMA conducts an Applicant's Briefing & collects Request for Public Assistance (RPA Form)**
- FEMA & PEMA conduct a Kickoff Meeting with each applicant – project grant approval process begins
- Applicant submits the required grant documents to PEMA before they receive funding
  - DAP-1,2 and EFT Forms

# ELIGIBLE WORK

- **EMERGENCY**

(When in the public interest to eliminate or lessen threat to life, property)

- Debris Removal
- Emergency Work (Mostly Police & Fire)
- Six Months to complete work

- **PERMANENT**

(Restore disaster *damaged facility* to *pre-disaster design/capacity/function*)

- Roads & Bridges, etc.
- Water Control Facilities & Water/Sewer
- Buildings, Vehicles & Parks
- 18 months to complete work

**FEMA makes the final determination  
on the eligibility of all disaster related work.**

# ELIGIBLE COSTS

## Types of Costs

- Labor (Both direct and project management)
- Equipment (Pumps are they below grade)
- Materials
- Contracts
- Required Project Engineering
- Consultants (Only eligible, reasonable costs for eligible work)
- Mitigation (Work designed to prevent future damages)

# Scope of Work

## **Your Active Participation is Required**

- **Describes work necessary to repair or replace your facility to its pre-disaster design, function and capacity**
- Basis for the cost estimate
- Specifies dimensions and quantities
- **Documents eligible work to be accomplished**
- **Can not change without FEMA approval**

# Codes & Standards Applied to Projects

## To be eligible:

- Apply to the specific type of repair or restoration
- Be appropriate to the pre-disaster use of the facility
- Be reasonable, written, and formally adopted before the declaration date
- Applied uniformly to all similar types of facilities in the jurisdiction and enforced since enactment
- DEP required permits

# Contracted Services

- Competitively bid by your normal procedures
- State not Federal Prevailing Wages
- All Federal, State & Local Laws Regulations and Standards

## Acceptable Contracts

- Emergency Contracts -
- Lump Sum, Unit Price, Cost Plus Fix Fee and Time & Material in Limited Situations (72 Hours or less)

# Eligible Engineering & Design Services

- Reasonable itemized costs for:
- Basic Engineering - design and specifications
- Special Services - permitting
- Construction Supervision and Final Inspection

# Right To Know

All information and documents that are submitted to PEMA/FEMA are obtainable under the Right To Know Law and Freedom of Information Act



# Contact Information

- PEMA - Public Assistance Office
  - 2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110
  - 1-800-635-9692
  - Website - <http://www.pema.state.pa.us>
  - email to: [chrevans@pa.gov](mailto:chrevans@pa.gov)
- FEMA
  - Website - <http://www.fema.gov>

# Any Questions

