

Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide Version 5

Policy Update and Project Status Presentation | June 2024



FEMA



NORTH STAR FOR THE “PA PROGRAMS”

MISSION:

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

VISION:

Delivering Public Assistance funding to our partners in a way that promotes the equitable treatment, timely recovery, and resilient rebuilding of communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



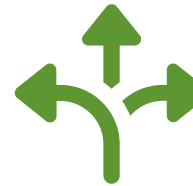
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

We prioritize customer experience above all else



SOLUTION-ORIENTED

We focus on solutions and embody FEMA core values



MAXIMIZE FLEXIBILITY

We look to maximize flexibility under our authorities to help communities



Focus Areas

- Maximize mitigation and resilience
- Reduce documentation requirements
- Increase focus on plain language
- Incorporate collaborative stakeholder input

PAPPG V5 Updates

Additional Areas of Focus

- Equitable access and clarification for:
 - Houses of Worship (HOW) & Faith Based Orgs.
 - Private Non-Profits (PNP)
 - Tribal Nations



Mitigation and Resilience Focus

- Clarified that mitigation measures can be implemented for all hazards, not just the hazard that caused the damage
- Added a section on nature-based solutions
- Incorporated PA's Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) policy and current Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications, and Standards (CBCSS) policy
- Defined resilience in the “Terms and Definitions” section.
- Added two new, pre-approved, mitigation measures to Appendix J that focus on buildings outside of the wildland-urban interface



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Equity, Clarity, Accessibility

➤ Equity

- Updated PAPPG, V5 to align with laws and Executive Orders (ex. *EO12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*)

➤ Clarity

- Within the Recipient Administrative Requirements subsection, referenced the *State-Led Public Assistance Guide* and added language clarifying this process as “Recipient-Led,” to be more inclusive of non-state partners
- Removed FEMA jargon, where appropriate.
- Clarified HOW, Faith-Based, and PNP eligibility

➤ Accessibility

- For HOW, expanded options to support legal responsibilities
- Consolidated Private Non-Profit and EHP information for a one-stop shop approach for applicants

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in New England, featuring a large marina filled with sailboats and a dense forest of green trees. The town's buildings are visible, including a prominent church with a tall steeple. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Public Assistance Accessibility for Tribal Nations

Accessibility for Tribal Nations

Clarified when Tribal roads are eligible for PA funding, specifically regarding those that intersect Bureau of India Affairs (BIA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) authorities.

Modified information FEMA requests from Tribal Nations to preserve the sanctity of sacred Tribal sites, respecting the Federal government's unique duty to support and ensure preservation of Tribal cultures, heritages, and traditions.

Provided Tribal-specific considerations within FEMA's scoping and costing methodology to promote the restoration of traditional tribal structures, consistent with PA's mission of supporting the overall resilience of Tribal nations and their PA-eligible facilities.

Clarified that federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments and state recognized tribes are eligible applicants.



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Updates to Emergency Work Policy Areas

V5 updates to the Emergency Work Policy Areas

Emergency Work Updates

Hazardous Limbs, Trees, and Stumps

- Eliminated the need to take complex measurements to be eligible for debris removal

Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR)

- Removed the requirement for pre-approval for PPDR (applicable to both private residential and commercial properties)

Saving Lives and Protecting Public Health and Safety

- Removed childcare services as a standalone EPM and is now only eligible when associated with emergency sheltering (both congregate and NCS).
- Removed pre-approval requirement before demolition work can begin (applicants must still be in compliance with eligibility requirements)



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Emergency Work Updates

Snow Assistance

- Clarified that FEMA does not approve snow assistance for emergency declarations

Evacuation and Sheltering

- Expanded emergency sheltering eligibility for survivors' (owners) and their "household pets, service animals, assistance animals" related to emergency sheltering and distribution of supplies and commodities

Damage Caused During Performance of Emergency Work

- Revised language to allow the replacement of damaged trees, shrubs, or other ground cover as eligible if the replacement is part of the repair work when damaged during eligible emergency work activities



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Updates to Permanent Work Policy Areas

V5 updates to the Permanent Work Policy Areas

Permanent Work Updates

Updated and added debris removal language based on policy memos, including:

- Incorporated changes from the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA), including but not to: Inundated & Submerged Roads (DRRA 1228), the new Category I - Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement (DRRA 1206), and Public Assistance 406 Codes and Standards (DRRA 1235(b)).

Hazard Mitigation

- Clarified that PA mitigation measures can be implemented for all hazards, not just the hazard that caused the damage.
- Added section addressing nature-based solutions.

Requirement to Obtain and Maintain Insurance

- Clarified when FEMA may modify the insurance requirement.



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Permanent Work Updates

Repair vs. Replacement

- Clearly stated that the 50% Rule calculation may be re-run for an initial error by FEMA, but not for revised estimates.

Environmental and Historic Preservation

- Centralized all EHP information from PAPPG version 4, to explain the intent and “why” for all EHP requirements.
- Provided examples of project types that may have potential for impacts to natural and cultural resources.

Capped Projects

- Clarified that, when the applicant chooses not to repair the original site (e.g., an Alternate Project), FEMA may require that the applicant coordinate with regulatory agencies to determine if the proposed work will adversely affect any historic properties and/or natural resources.



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Closeout and Cost Eligibility Updates

V5 updates to the Cost and Grants Policy Areas

Cost and Closeout Updates



Cost Eligibility

- Aligned reasonable cost with Simplified Procedures.
 - “A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the applicant makes the decision to incur the cost.”
- Added clarification that an applicant may not claim fuel costs in addition to FEMA hourly equipment rates.

Final Cost and Closeout

- Clarified language regarding timelines and requirements.
- Adjusted and added language on NSPO appeals to clarify timelines and requirements.
- Updated Closeout timelines to reflect 2 C.F.R. § 200.344.



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An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Newport, Rhode Island, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats. The town is built on a hillside, with a prominent white steeple visible on the right. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue gradient. The text "Updates to Appendices" is centered in white, bold font.

Updates to Appendices

Appendix Updates

Appendix A: Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance

- Provided clarification for the National Environmental Policy Act the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Included language for EO 12898, Environmental Justice.

Appendix D: Snow Declarations

- Clarified the sources used to determine snow fall measurement.

Appendix F: Work Eligibility Considerations by Type of Facility

- Updated languages relating to PA hazard mitigation to increase clarity and readability.
- Added Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration & Enforcement.

Appendix J: Cost-Effective PA Hazard Mitigation Measures

- Expanded Appendix J by adding two additional PA Hazard Mitigation opportunities at 100% funding.



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Appendix Updates

PAPPG, V4 Appendices that were removed during the PAPPG, V5 revision:

- Appendix C: Welded Steel Moment Frame.
 - This information was incorporated into Chapter 8: **PERMANENT WORK ELIGIBILITY.**
- Appendix D: Frequent Compliance Issues with Cooperative Purchasing Programs.
- Appendix E: Stump Conversion Table.
- Appendix F: Hazardous Stump Worksheet.



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Milestones

Milestones/Status

COMPLETED MILESTONES

- *Adjudication of internal targeted review*
- *DHS/OMB review and clearance*

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- *Adjudicate feedback received during the Public Comment Period*
- *Publication and Socialization*

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Public Comment Period

Public Comment Period and Finalization

- The Public Comment Period opened on **6/18/2024** and will continue through **8/17/2024**. Reviewers may submit comments:
 - Directly through the Federal Register or;
 - They can be submitted via email with a comment matrix to FEMA-Recovery-PA-Policy@FEMA.DHS.gov.
- All comments will be reviewed by FEMA and adjudicated appropriately.
- Following the Public Comment Period, the updated PAPPG, V5 will be reviewed by leadership, finalized, and published on FEMA.gov.
- Spanish translation of PAPPG, V5 will occur after the English version is published to FEMA.gov.
- Please note: FEMA will not review or adjudicate any comments received outside of the Public Comment Period.



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QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK

Please reach out to the PA Regulations & Policy
Branch with questions or feedback at:

FEMA-Recovery-PA-Policy@FEMA.DHS.gov



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