

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE – REIMBURSEMENT TO MUNICIPALITIES & PNP'S

FEMA Public Assistance funds the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility or portion of the infrastructure that is damaged or destroyed by a disaster. Certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations may also receive assistance. Eligible PNP's include educational, utility, emergency, medical, rehabilitation, and temporary or permanent custodial care facilities (including those for the aged and disabled), and other PNP facilities that provide essential services of a governmental nature to the general public.

As soon as practicable, the State, assisted by FEMA, conducts briefings for State, local and PNP officials to inform them of the assistance available and how to apply for it. Intent to apply for assistance must be filed with the State within 30 days after the area is designated eligible for assistance.

Projects fall into the following categories: Debris removal, Emergency protective measures, Road systems and bridges, Water control facilities, Public buildings and contents, Public utilities, and Parks and Recreation.

For insurable structures within Special Flood Hazard Areas, primarily buildings, assistance from FEMA is reduced by the amount of insurance settlement that could have been obtained under a standard NFIP policy. Municipalities should insure public property in flood hazard areas. For structures located outside of a SFHA, FEMA will reduce the amount of eligible assistance by any insurance proceeds.

FEMA reviews and approves the project applications and obligates the Federal share of the costs (75 percent) to the State. The State then disburses funds to local applicants.

For small projects, payment of the Federal share of the estimate is made upon approval of the project and no further accounting to FEMA is required. For large projects, payment is made on the basis of actual costs determined after the project is completed; although interim payments may be made as necessary. Once FEMA obligates funds to the State, further management of the assistance, including disbursement to subgrantees is the responsibility of the NJOEM. FEMA will continue to monitor the recovery progress to ensure the timely delivery of eligible assistance and compliance with the law and regulations.