Direct Application
Public Assistance Applicant Information

This document provides an overview of the Public Assistance (PA) Direct Application process. Direct Application is a process Applicants may use to navigate PA via Grants Portal without a Program Delivery Manager (PDMG). Historically, FEMA assigned PDMGs to all Applicants to assist with navigating the PA process.

FEMA developed streamlined Project Applications to enable Direct Application, including:
- Debris removal (Category A)
- Emergency protective measures (Category B)
- Associated management costs (Category Z)

Direct Application is available to Applicants only claiming costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures. FEMA continues to assign PDMGs to Applicants with infrastructure damage as streamlined Project Applications are not yet available for work and cost claims in order to repair damaged infrastructure (Categories C-G).

Applicant Impact Survey

Upon approval of the Applicant's Request for Public Assistance (RPA), the Applicant completes the *Applicant Impact Survey* (AIS). The survey captures high-level information about the Applicant's experience with the PA Program and the type and severity of its incident-related impacts. FEMA and the Recipient use this information to assess the Applicant's needs and determine possible assignment of a PDMG.

Recovery Scoping Video

Upon completion of the AIS, the Applicant watches a Recovery Scoping Video, which describes:
- An overview of the process
- Project compliance requirements
- Project Application steps
- Deadlines and time extensions
- Resources

Upon watching the video, the Applicant receives certification of completion and then gains access and ability to develop Project Applications. The Applicant has 60-days to identify and report all incident-related impacts by completing Sections I through III of the Project Application. The Applicant may use the table of contents at the beginning of the video for easy reference at any point in the process.

Project Applications

Project Applications include triggers for specific information and documentation based on the type of work and project-specific circumstances. For more information about completing and submitting streamlined project applications see FEMA's *Completing and Submitting a Streamlined Project Application*.

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There are four separate streamlined Project Applications available that include specific information and documentation requirements for work and costs claimed. For detailed information on each one, see the following:

- Category A Streamlined Project Application Reference Guide
- Category B Streamlined Project Application Reference Guide
- COVID-19 Streamlined Project Application
- Management Cost Streamlined Project Application

Donated Resources

FEMA allows the Applicant to use the value of donated resources (non-cash contributions of property or services), related to eligible debris removal and emergency protective measures, to offset the non-Federal cost share of its Category A and B projects. Currently, the system does not have functionality for Applicants to submit donated resource claims directly. Therefore, Applicants need to work with the Recipient and FEMA to claim donated resources. Refer to the Donated Resources Section of the *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide*.

Customer Service Options

FEMA continues to build out customer service options to ensure Direct Applicants have the necessary tools to navigate the program without a PDMG. For technical assistance with Grants Portal, the Applicant may call the Grants Portal Hotline at 1-866-337-8448 to speak with a customer service representative.