

Public Assistance Update

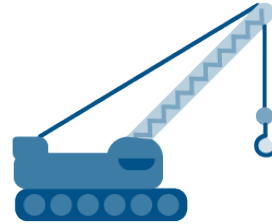
FEMA Region IV Recovery Division | Spring 2022



FEMA



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Simplifying the Public Assistance Program

FEMA Actions Taken: 4 Thematic Areas

- Listening to Communities and Assessing Performance
- Simplifying Processes
- Simplifying Policy
- Training



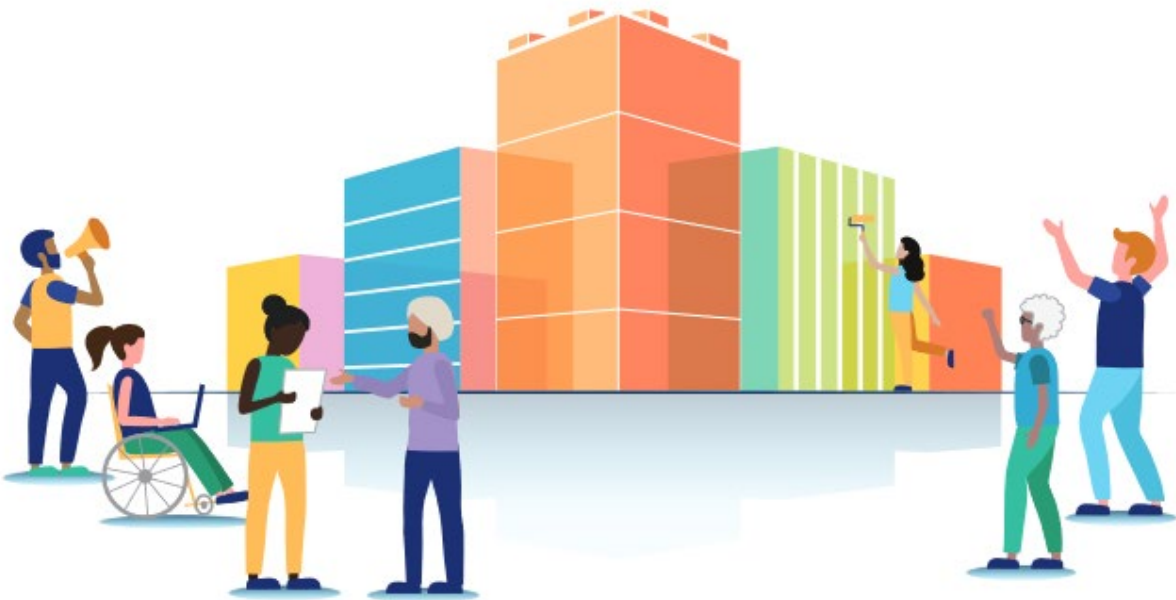
2022–2026

FEMA Strategic Plan

Building the FEMA our Nation Needs and Deserves

Listening to Communities and Assessing Performance

- FEMA 2022-2026 Strategic Plan requires the agency to talk to the communities we serve to gain a better understanding of how PA can best serve them.
- FEMA is re-establishing the Public Assistance Steering Committee.
- The committee will be comprised of leaders from FEMA, states, tribal nations, territories, and local governments, and is charged with providing feedback and direction on operational issues and strategic initiatives within the Program.



Simplifying Processes



Sampling to Minimize Burden

- NAC 2021 Report to the FEMA Administrator identified an opportunity to adopt the Government Accountability Office (GAO) approach to sampling and thereby decrease the documentation burden FEMA places on communities when they request Public Assistance.
- FEMA released *Public Assistance Sampling Procedure*. The procedure utilizes an attribute-based sampling approach, following the GAO Financial Audit Manual, for verifying supporting documentation for PA projects. This will reduce the level of documentation that FEMA requires applicants to submit with projects to validate PA claims.
- The next version of FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) will formally adopt this procedure. In the interim, FEMA staff should use it to develop all large projects.

Public Assistance Sampling Procedure

3/31/2022



Determination Reviews and Communications

- Maximizing the availability of federal assistance requires eligibility determinations be made by those with the best understanding of the challenges facing communities during their recoveries.
- Moving forward, all determination memos during field operations must be reviewed by the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO).
- It is vital that FEMA's most knowledgeable and seasoned field and regional staff are engaged in these reviews and are knowledgeable about when Public Assistance is and is not able to meet a community's intended outcomes. It is also vital that FEMA provide clear, prompt answers to keep long-term recovery moving.



Deploying Consolidated Resource Center (CRC) Staff for Complex Projects

- FEMA CRCs provide technical expertise to help FEMA field staff develop or validate project scopes of work and cost estimates.
- It is critical that individuals developing projects understand the unique circumstances facing communities as they recover, especially for complex recoveries.
- Technical Specialist participation with field staff in applicant coordination meetings, site inspections, and other critical milestones for complex projects.



Simplifying Policy

The image is a blue-tinted photograph of a residential area that has been severely damaged, likely by a natural disaster. In the foreground, there are large, chaotic piles of debris, including wooden planks, beams, and other structural materials. A small, shallow pool of water is visible on the left side of the debris. The middle ground shows a wide, flat area of sand or dirt, possibly a beach or a cleared area. In the background, several houses are visible, many of which appear to be partially destroyed or in ruins. The sky is overcast and grey, contributing to the somber and desolate atmosphere of the scene.

Deadline to Support and Estimate Completed Projects

- FEMA removed the requirement in the PAPPG v4 that for all projects completed prior to obligation, applicants, “must submit documentation for the project within 90 days of the Recovery Scoping Meeting or within 90 days of the work completion date, whichever is later.” Applies to all unobligated projects.
- FEMA has waived the requirement under PAPPG v3.1 that completed small projects must be prepared based on actual costs. This waiver is in place for all unobligated small projects on any open incident.
- The waivers discussed above do not apply to an applicant’s 90-day post-obligation deadlines described in Chapter 12 of the PAPPG v4 (Financial Reconciliation and Closeout).
- FEMA has adjusted the 90-day post obligation deadline for projects with work completed prior to obligation to begin on the date of obligation.



Actions taken at the Region 4 Level

“Blue Sky” or Pre-Event Initiative for Debris | R4 PA, EHP, and AEMA

- Purpose of this effort is to provide State and Local governments and all other eligible Public Assistance applicants the opportunity to pre-identify debris management sites (DMS), temporary staging and reduction sites (TDSR), and final disposal sites to FEMA to ensure compliance with Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders prior to site use.
- FEMA Region IV EHP and PA staff will work with State PA Partners to collect information pertaining to debris DMS, TDSRs, and Final Disposal Sites prior to disasters.



“Blue Sky” continued....

- This pre-event review process is not intended to replace State or Local government’s established permitting process.
- FEMA Region IV EHP and PA staff will work with State PA Partners to collect information pertaining to debris DMS, TDSRs, and Final Disposal Sites prior to disasters.
 - How? Digital Survey 123 Form developed by AEMA and FEMA
- FEMA Blue Sky reviews serve as pre-cursory compliance reviews of Federal laws, regulations, and EOs. It is recommended that all potential PA applicants adhere to all state land use and burning permitting and approval processes



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Goals of a Digital Survey



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Public Assistance Pre-Event Debris Site Form

Applicant Information

Organization Name*

Organization Type*

Local Government

Private Non-Profit

State Government

Tribal Government

Other (Please Specify)

Primary Point of Contact*

First, Last Name (This individual will be contacted by FEMA if additional information is requested during the review process)

Details Add ▾ Edit Basemap Analysis Save ▾ Share Print ▾ Directions Measure Bookmarks Find address or place 🔍

About Content Legend

Legend
Imagery AEMA Flooding Severe Weather

PJ_CATEGORY OF WORK_AEMA_Flooding_Severe Weather_Flood Warning_10_07_2021

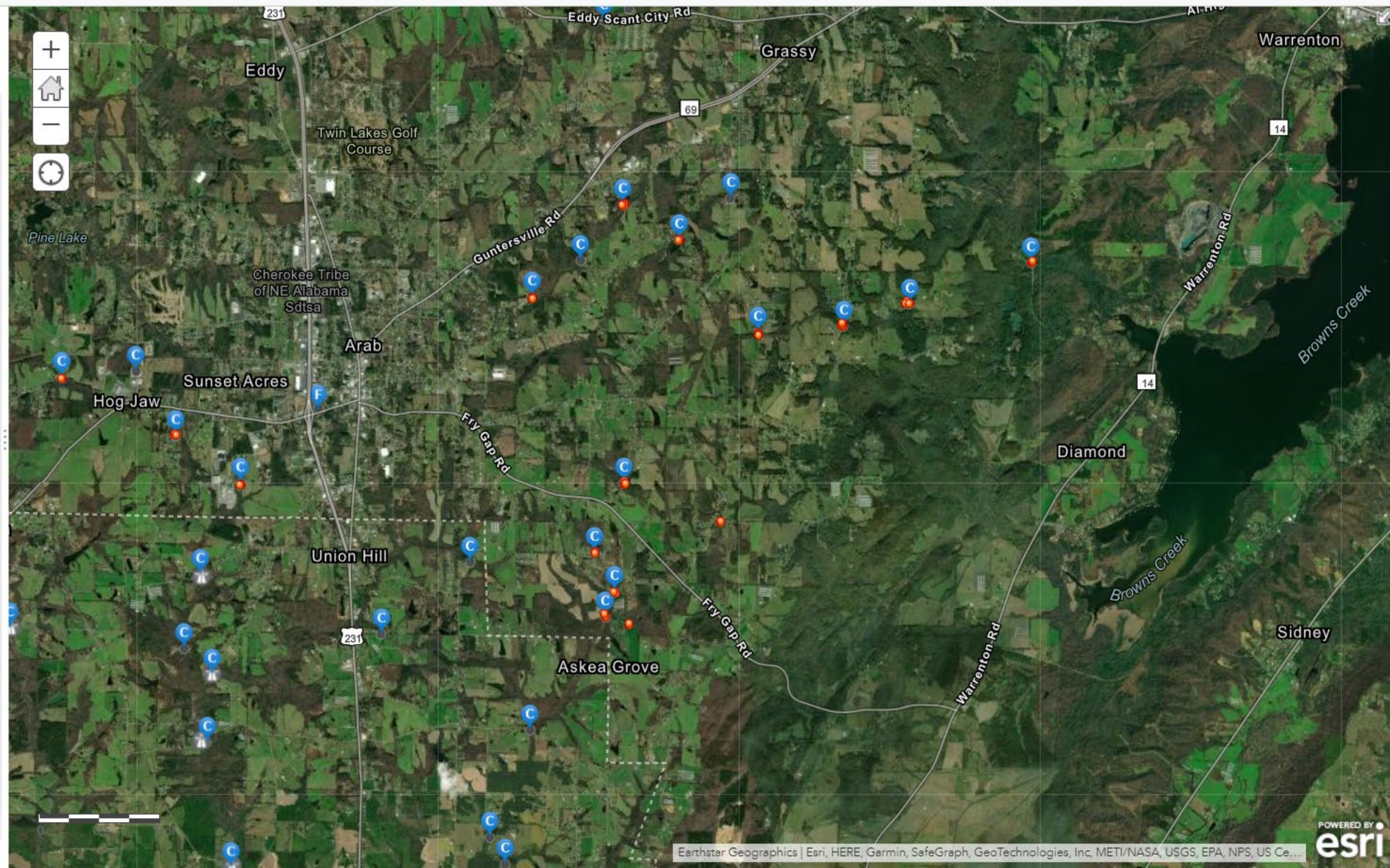
- C
- E
- B
- F
- G
- A

PDA Damage Collection

- Category A
- Category B
- Category C
- Category D
- Category E
- Category F
- Category G
- Other

Raw Data Export_00_AEMA_Flooding_Severe Weather_Flood Warning_10_07_2021

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Region 4 Informal Training Catalog

- Public Assistance Program and Process Overview
- Public Assistance Joint PDAs
- Integrating Technology into PDAs
- Beach Basics: Implications for Closeout
- Closeout Check Sheets
- The Closeout Process
- FEMA Insurance Review Process
- Validate As You Go (VAYGO)
- Updates and Procedures for Public Assistance Appeals



Questions?



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