

# Public Assistance Funding Process

Disaster occurs

Local government conducts damage assessment

Local damage assessment information provided to IEMA

IEMA determines need for FEMA/IEMA damage assessment

FEMA/IEMA conduct preliminary damage assessment with local officials

Governor may request Federal Disaster Declaration

Federal Disaster Declaration made by the President (a per capita amount of eligible costs is required)

Public assistance applicants' briefing

Project worksheets are developed, reviewed, approved, and obligated by FEMA

IEMA reimburses applicants for eligible expenses/eligible work completed

Project Closeout Inspection

Records Retention and Audit

# Important Websites

Real-time disaster information and preparedness tips

[www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov)

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency's Official website

<http://state.il.us/iema>

Bureau of Disaster Assistance and Preparedness website

<http://www.iema.illinois.gov/iema/disaster/disaster.htm>

IEMA's 24-hour Emergency Telecommunications Center

(800) 782-7860



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Illinois Emergency Management Agency



## Disaster Declaration Process



IEMA

## Local Response

All disasters begin with a local response. Local resources are used to respond to the disaster. The chief local elected official in a city or county may declare a local disaster in order to activate that jurisdiction's emergency operations plan. Citizens should report damages to their City/County Emergency Management Agency or City/County officials.

## Local Government Requests Assistance

If a city's or a county's response capabilities are overwhelmed or depleted, local officials may request assistance from IEMA. Cities in need of State assistance should make their request through the County Emergency Management Agency. County EMAs should submit all requests for State assistance to IEMA.

## State Disaster Declaration

The Governor may proclaim a state disaster, which allows state agency resources to assist local governments. For example, the Illinois Department of Transportation or the Illinois Department of Corrections may be requested to help with debris removal.

## Preliminary Damage Assessments

Damage information (private property, business losses, and public infrastructure damages) must be first collected by local officials. Based upon the information collected by local officials, IEMA may request a Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). During the visit, the PDA team tours, collects and analyzes the damage information. The damage assessment team members include IEMA, FEMA, SBA, and local officials. Local officials MUST be prepared to show all damages to the PDA team(s).

NOTE: The ability to gather damage information expeditiously may be hindered due to the nature and severity of the disaster. For example, flood damage cannot be accurately assessed until water levels recede enough to allow PDA teams access to impacted buildings and homes.

## Requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration

If the Governor asks the President for a Major Disaster declaration, the request is submitted through FEMA Region V in Chicago. FEMA reviews the Governor's request and makes a recommendation to the President. The President then makes the decision on the Governor's request.

## If the Request is Denied

The Governor may appeal the denial. The appeal must be submitted within 30 days and provide additional NEW information to the original request for re-consideration.

## President Approves Disaster Request

Depending on the State's request, the Federal disaster declaration may make assistance available to families, businesses, local governments, and/or certain private non-profit organizations located in declared counties that suffered eligible disaster related damages. The primary federal assistance programs are Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Assistance, and Small Business Administration disaster loans.

## Individual Assistance

Helps individuals and households in declared counties begin the recovery process after a disaster. Individual Assistance programs include: Individuals & Households Program, Minimum Essential Repair, Disaster Unemployment, and other programs. Homeowners, renters, and businesses may apply to the SBA for low interest economic impact disasters loans. Individuals, families, and businesses have 60 days after the declaration is issued to register for assistance either by telephone or the internet.

## Public Assistance

Helps reimburse local, county, and state governments, and certain private, non-profit organizations in declared counties for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair/replacement of damaged public infrastructure. Emergency Work includes debris removal and emergency protective measures. Permanent Work categories include roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, and parks/recreational facilities. Damages and costs incurred from a disaster are measured by a statewide and county per capita dollar threshold. These factors are considered by FEMA when determining the need for a Public Assistance major disaster declaration.

## Public Assistance Disaster Briefings for Local Officials

IEMA conducts applicant briefings to explain to local officials the Public Assistance Program policies and procedures, how project worksheets are prepared and the reimbursement processes and procedures. Local officials have 30 days from the date of the Disaster Declaration to submit a request for Public Assistance to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

After a Presidential Declaration the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides federal assistance to states, local units of government and certain private non-profit organizations for long-term mitigation measures and all-hazards mitigation planning.

Applicant organizations must have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan in place prior to the submission of project applications to FEMA, with the proposed project identified in the plan. Local government applicants must belong to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).