



## FAQs for Governments Affected by Flooding

### What does the state disaster proclamation mean for units of governments?

The state disaster proclamation ensures state resources are available to help government officials respond to and recover from the disaster. State assistance includes resources such as sandbags, inmate labor for sandbagging or debris removal, law enforcement support and more. If you need assistance from the state, please submit your request through your county emergency management agency.

### What is Public Assistance?

The Public Assistance (PA) Program is a federal program that may provide disaster assistance to states, units of government and certain private non-profit organizations for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the permanent restoration of public facilities as a result of a major disaster or emergency declaration made by the President.

### How can we qualify for Public Assistance?

There are two thresholds that must be met for federal Public Assistance:

- First, the total statewide eligible disaster-related expenses (expenses from all impacted counties and all state agency expenses) must exceed \$18.3 million.
- Second, a county's eligible disaster-related expenses must meet a threshold determined by its population multiplied by \$3.61.

Both thresholds must be met in order for a county to receive federal Public Assistance.

### Do we include home and business damage costs in our county threshold?

No. Federal assistance for households and businesses affected by flooding is a separate program known as the Individual Assistance (IA) Program.

### What is the state doing to get federal Public Assistance for impacted government bodies?

There is a standard process for assessing the damages, costs and impacts for each disaster event. The first step in the process is an Initial Damage Assessment (IDA), where each county government reports their initial damages, costs and impacts to IEMA. Based on the results of the IDA, a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) may be conducted with FEMA to validate the information reported during the IDA. The results of the PDA may then be used to support a request by the Governor for a declaration that includes Public Assistance Program funding.

### What should we do to be prepared for a Public Assistance Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)?

- Identify and document damages and costs
- Mark damage locations on a map
- Take photographs of damages
- Estimate costs for work to be completed by location and category of work
  - Categories of Work
    - Category A – Debris Removal
    - Category B – Emergency Protective Measures
    - Category C – Road and Bridge Systems
    - Category D – Water Control Facilities
    - Category E – Buildings and Equipment
    - Category F – Utility Systems
    - Category G – Parks, Recreational and Other
  - FEMA Schedule of Equipment Rates
    - <http://www.fema.gov/schedule-equipment-rates>

- Obtain bills, invoices and receipts for eligible work completed
- Review insurance policies and deduct any anticipated insurance proceeds from costs
- Review contracting/procurement policies to ensure they meet federal requirements
- Complete and submit the PA Initial Damage Assessment Cost Tabulation form ([https://www.illinois.gov/iema/LocalEMA/Documents/PAforms/PA\\_DamageAssessment.pdf](https://www.illinois.gov/iema/LocalEMA/Documents/PAforms/PA_DamageAssessment.pdf)) to IEMA when directed.

For more information, visit [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov) or contact your county emergency management agency.