



## **FEMA Public Assistance Fact Sheet**

**Objective:** A federal Public Assistance major disaster declaration request requires an accounting of damage sustained to infrastructure as a direct result of the event to be included. The state has an overall threshold (\$29,648,524) and each county has their own. These thresholds must be met to be eligible for the FEMA Public Assistance program.

### **Eligibility:**

- Entities eligible for assistance are state agencies, local and county government and private not-for-profits that provide critical/essential governmental services.
- Damage must have occurred during the incident period and been a direct result of the event.
- Work eligible for reimbursement includes emergency work, such as debris removal, and permanent work, such as repairs to roads and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings and contents, public utilities and parks/recreational facilities.

**Timing:** The State has 30 days following the weather event to request a Public Assistance disaster declaration from the federal government.

**Process Overview:** Typically, two assessments will occur to validate the damage from an event. Both assessments must be completed to ensure that FEMA timelines are met:

- *Initial Assessment.* An initial assessment is conducted by Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and county emergency managers (EMs) to validate damage and ascertain if thresholds for counties and the state have been met.
  - Before DHSES begins the initial assessment, county EMs coordinate with localities to ensure that all eligible damage is identified and nothing is missed.
  - DHSES coordinates with county EMs for a date, time and location for the validation. County EMs provide a point of contact (POC) to escort the DHSES Team to the damaged facilities.
  - If additional damage is identified after the initial assessment, please contact your DHSES OEM counterpart immediately with the additional information.
- *Joint PDA.* Following DHSES/county assessments, if it appears the FEMA thresholds have been met, DHSES requests a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (Joint PDA) from FEMA.
  - DHSES coordinates with FEMA and county EMs to conduct the PDA. The Joint PDA team validates damages and determines whether FEMA thresholds have been met.
  - The validation information collected during the joint PDA is included in the request for a federal major disaster declaration.

**Documentation and Role of the County EM:** County EMs are asked to have potential applicants gather all necessary documentation to support their damages as soon as possible including:



## Homeland Security and Emergency Services

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
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- GPS coordinates of all identified eligible damaged facilities;
- Type of damage;
- Damage descriptions and dimensions;
- Photographs;
- Cost estimates;
- Insurance policies; and
- Any special requirements or considerations (i.e. a waste water treatment plants, a dam, etc.).