

# Public Assistance (PA) Hazard Mitigation Funding for Replacement Facilities

As of September 28, 2022, FEMA expanded policy related to PA hazard mitigation funding. The goal of these changes was to remove barriers to resilience and maximize the use of hazard mitigation funding. This fact sheet provides background on policy changes that were made to increase PA Hazard Mitigation on recovery projects. This effort helps further FEMA's efforts to fulfill Objective 2.2 of [FEMA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).

## FEMA Public Assistance Information

For additional information on these policy updates, email the Public Assistance Policy Division at [fema-recovery-pa-policy@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-recovery-pa-policy@fema.dhs.gov).

### Public Assistance Policies these changes address

Pursuant to section Section 406(e) of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5172) and Title 44, Restoration of Damaged Facilities (44 C.F.R. § 206.226(e)), FEMA is authorized to provide public assistance funding for cost effective hazard mitigation measures to facilities damaged after an incident. However, under FEMA's *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide*, prior to September 28, 2022, FEMA was unable to provide PA hazard mitigation funding for the following:

- Improved Projects involving facility replacement or relocation; and
- Replacement facilities, eligible as part of FEMA's repair vs. replacement calculation, if the project is not funded as an Alternative Procedures Project or unless the mitigation measure is listed in Appendix J, *Cost Effective Public Assistance Hazard Mitigation Measures*.

### Update to the *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide* Prior, Effective September 28, 2022

Effective September 28, 2022, FEMA instituted policy changes via memorandum to provide financial assistance for hazard mitigation on an expanded range of projects. Under the September memo, FEMA is removing restrictions for hazard mitigation funding for replacement facilities and improved projects involving facility replacement or relocation. However, it is important to note that PA funding on any hazard mitigation project is still subject to the "total eligible cost calculation" in the *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Version 4, Chapter 8:V*. In cases



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where the eligible repair costs are fully covered by insurance, PA hazard mitigation costs may still be eligible if the "total eligible project cost," including mitigation, meets or exceeds the minimum project threshold.

These updates provide PA Applicants more resources and greater flexibility to determine their recovery outcomes and increase resilience within their own communities. Note that all other requirements and evaluation processes remain in effect for public assistance grants including hazard mitigation. This policy update only removes the previous hazard mitigation funding restrictions noted above (see also Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Version 4, Chapter 8:IV.B. and 8:V.C. for more information).

## Additional Resources

- [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)
- [Process of Public Assistance Grants](#)
- [Public Assistance Resource Library](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What does FEMA define as “hazard mitigation”?

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. FEMA has authority to provide PA funding for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures for facilities damaged by the incident. See the Public Assistance Program Policy Guide, Chapter 8, Section IV for additional information.

### How does FEMA evaluate proposed hazard mitigation efforts when issuing grants?

FEMA evaluates proposed PA mitigation measures for eligibility, cost-effectiveness, technical feasibility and effectiveness, and compliance with EHP laws, regulations, and EOs. In addition, FEMA ensures that the mitigation does not negatively impact the facility’s operation or surrounding areas or create susceptibility to damage from another hazard. To be eligible for PA funding, the mitigation measures must directly reduce the potential of future damage to the damaged portion(s) of the facility.

### What hazard mitigation measures qualify for PA?

For a full list of FEMA’s cost-effective hazard mitigation measures, see Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Appendix J.

### How does FEMA define an “improved project”?

An improved project is a project that restores the pre-disaster function of a facility and incorporates improvements or changes to the pre-disaster design, where such improvements are not required by eligible codes or standards.