

## **Public Assistance Program**

The objective of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

When disaster strikes and local jurisdictions are affected, the first step is the local declaration process. Once the declaration process is completed the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) begins. Local jurisdictions are asked to assess costs and damages associated with an incident period. Those costs are sent to the State Emergency Management Office. Once compiled state-wide, the Governor will decide if there is enough costs/damages to ask for a Presidential Declaration. If granted, those jurisdictions may be eligible for reimbursement. Each jurisdiction must sustain at least \$1,000 of damage or costs associated with the specific disaster within the incident period.

Two thresholds must be met to be considered for a disaster. The County must meet a minimum amount equal to \$3.27 per capita (or \$118,671.57). The second threshold must be met by the State equal to \$1.30 per capita (or \$3,494,943.40). Once both thresholds are met, the State is eligible to make application for a Presidential Declaration.

All local jurisdictions (county, cities, school districts, schools) are asked to complete the following form as part of the PDA. The form is broken down into different categories of work. The local jurisdictions can call the Emergency Management office at (620) 221-0470. By filling out this form, you have assisted Emergency Management in the Preliminary Damage Assessment process.

For complete information on the Public Assistance process, please go to the following link: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm>