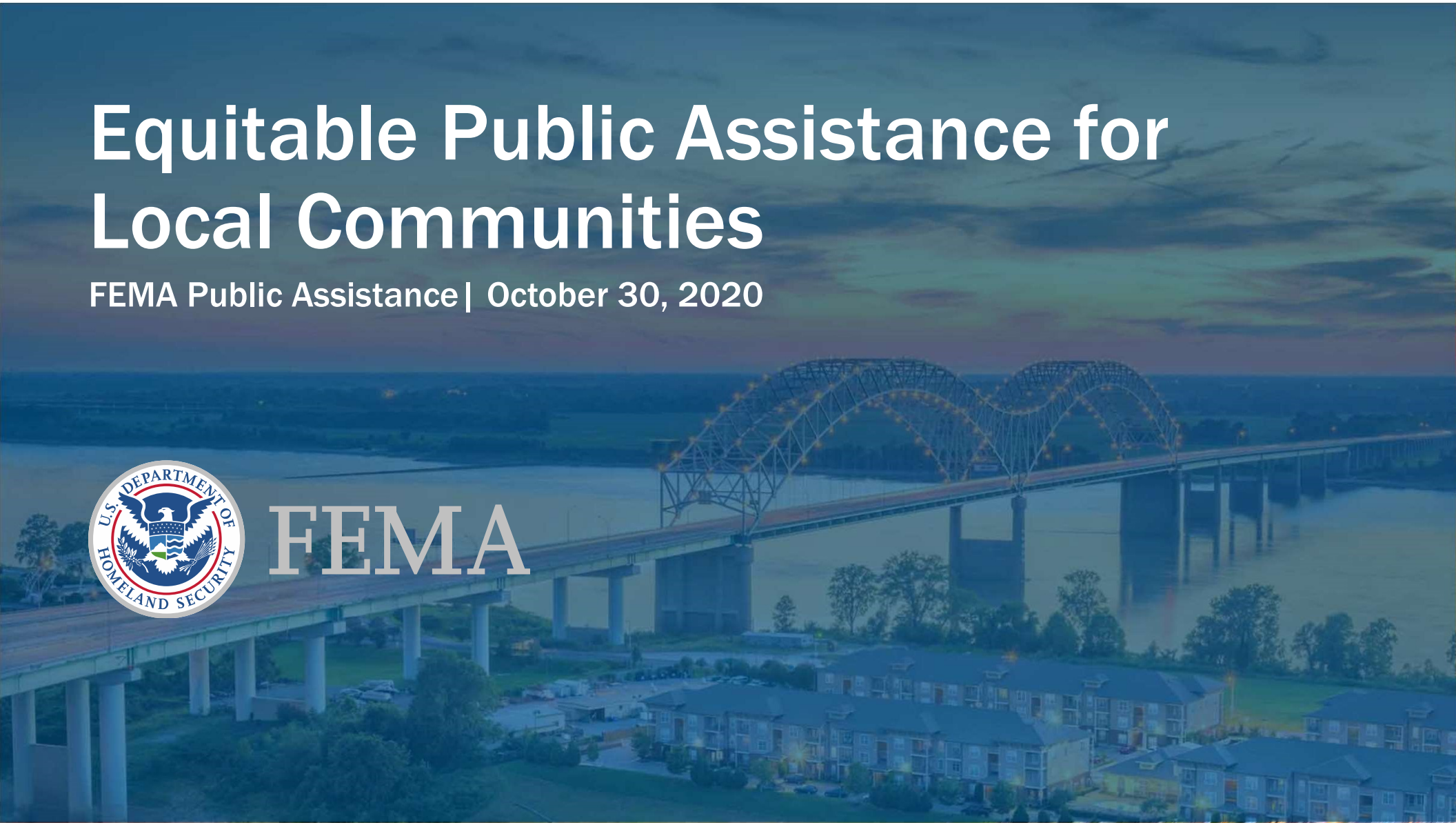
Equitable Public Assistance for Local Communities

FEMA Public Assistance | October 30, 2020



FEMA Public Assistance: What's Available to Communities

FEMA's largest grant program helping State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

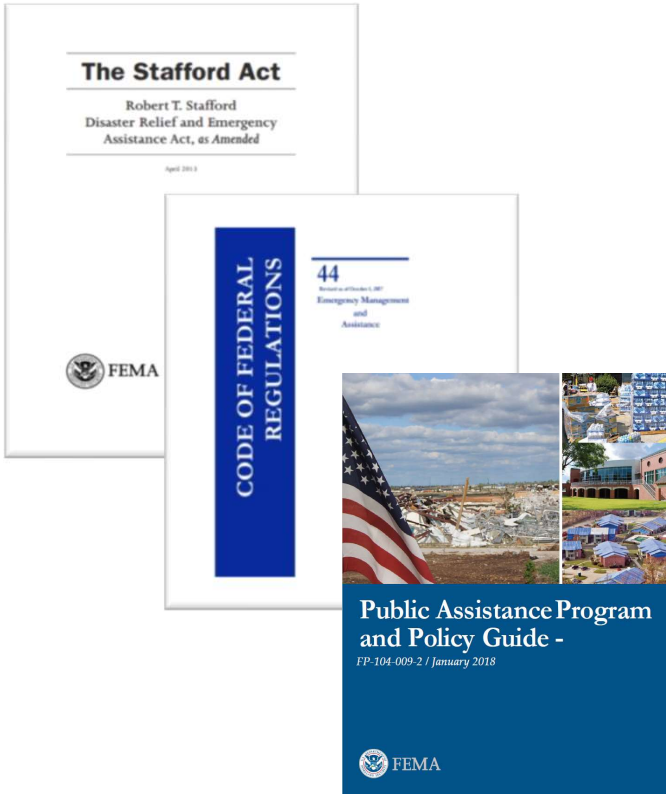
- Emergency assistance to save lives and protect property; and
- Permanent work for the restoration of eligible disaster-damaged facilities and infrastructure, including mitigation.

Find us on the web at:

- https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public

FEMA Public Assistance: Where to Find Guidance

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as Amended (Stafford Act)
- Title 44 CFR parts 206, and 207 and Title 2 CFR part 200
- Federal compliance for project funding
  - Federally funded projects must comply with Environmental and Historic Preservation statutes, regulations and Executive Orders (Flood Plain, Wetlands, Environmental Justice)
  - Disability rights laws (Architectural Barriers Act, American Disabilities Act) can require accessibility standards for eligible facilities

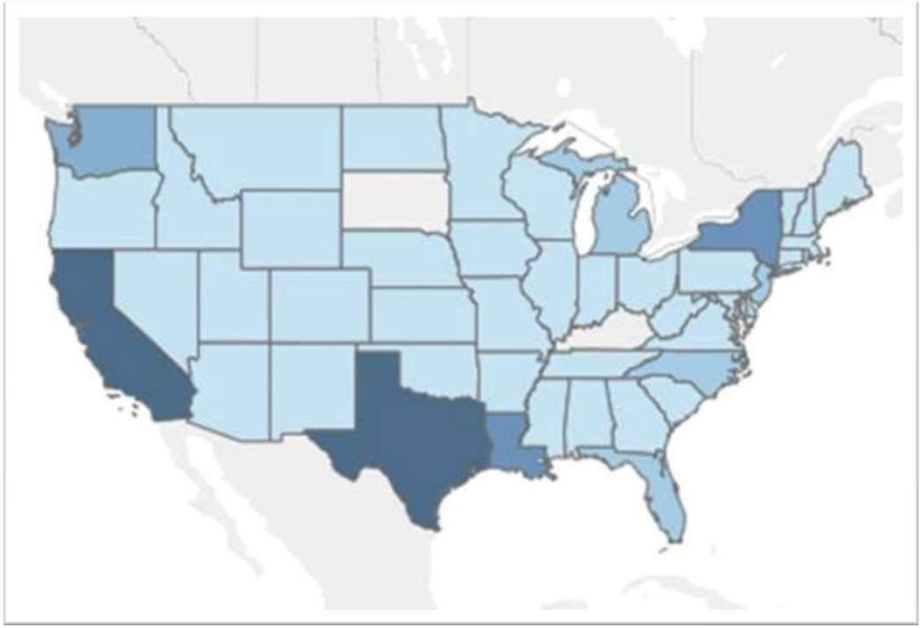


FEMA Public Assistance: Getting Access to Funding

- Applicants can apply for PA through the Grants Portal (https://grantee.fema.gov/)
  - One-stop-shop for all applicants applying for the PA Program
  - Applicants create accounts directly or work through their Recipient to gain access
  - Resources tab has instructions on how to submit and track projects
  - FEMA created YouTube videos on the FEMA PA Grants Portal & Manager Channel
  - For technical assistance, Applicants can call the Grants Portal Hotline at 1-866-337-8448

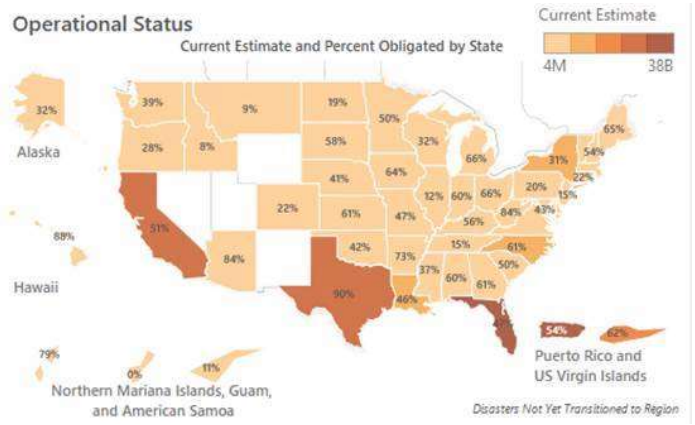
FEMA Public Assistance: Support for COVID-19

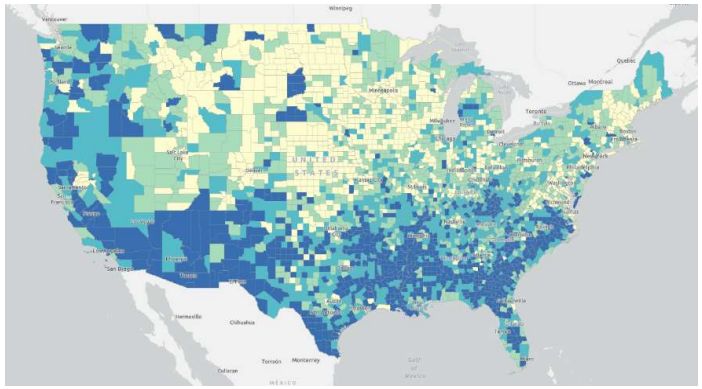
- Over $27.6 billion in support of COVID-19 response efforts. We're working with--
  - Over 25,000 government and non-profit organizations to reimburse costs under Public Assistance
- FEMA remains committed to helping local officials navigate federal funding requirements and resources
- Work Eligible for Public Assistance includes medical care, sheltering, feeding, mass mortuary services, emergency operation centers, communications, personal protective equipment and disinfection

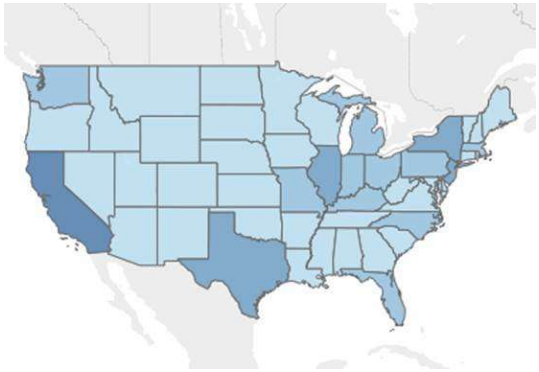


FEMA Public Assistance: Evaluating Equitable Outcomes

- CDC Social Vulnerability Index
- Public Assistance Current Disaster Funding
- Public Assistance Applicants
- FEMA continually improves data analysis capabilities







FEMA Public Assistance: Encouraging Equitable Outcomes

- FEMA vs. State/Local
  - States/Locals drive their own recovery within the confines of their authorities
  - National level decisions aren't necessarily best applied at the local level
  - Sometimes FEMA can only encourage Locals to make equitable decisions
- Promoting Equity in Disaster Recovery
  - Identifying disparities and creating policies/processes to overcome barriers

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