

THE BLUEPRINT

SPECIAL EDITION



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FEMA Public Assistance Deadlines Are Approaching

FEMA Public Assistance deadlines are approaching. The floods in our area in early March left much of our state a federally declared disaster area. Thirty-five (35) parishes have now been declared a federal disaster area and are now eligible for assistance. This disaster declaration opens the possibility of federal assistance for local entities that have sustained damages. FEMA public assistance across our area in Louisiana is currently limited to Categories A and B (Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures), but in many areas those categories are expected to expand to the Permanent Work Categories C (Roads & Bridges), D (Water Control Facilities), E (Buildings, Contents, & Equipment), F (Utilities), and G (Parks, Recreational, and Other). The deadline for making a "Request for Public Assistance" is within 30 days of the declaration date of a federal disaster in your area. That deadline is quickly approaching for those in the initial group of seven parishes declared on March 13 with the 30 day period ending on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016**. All of the damages do not have to be known at this time as GOHSEP is only now starting to evaluate the damages to public infrastructure. Public assistance is not limited to municipalities and police juries, but is also available to levee and drainage districts, utility districts, and non-profit organizations such as schools, hospitals, libraries, etc. Please do not miss the deadline if your water distribution system, levees, roadways, wastewater collection and treatment systems or other facilities have sustained damages or may have sustained damage. If you are not currently working with an engineer who can assist you in preparing cost estimates that will be needed as the process continues, we would be glad to offer our assistance.

The following information is provided by GOHSEP regarding disaster declaration dates and deadlines for requests for public assistance:

The **Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)** would like to make you aware of a newly declared federal disaster as follows:

March 13, 2016 for the Initial Group (seven parishes) Deadline is April 12, 2016:
Bossier, Claiborne, Grant, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland and Webster

March 15, 2016 for the Second Group (sixteen parishes) Deadline is April 14, 2016:
Beauregard, Bienville, Caddo, Caldwell, DeSoto, LaSalle, Livingston, Madison, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Union, Vernon, Washington, West Carroll and Winn

March 17, 2016 for the Third Group (three parishes) Deadline is April 16, 2016:
Allen, Ascension and Calcasieu

***March 25, 2016 for the Fourth Group (four parishes) Deadline is April 24, 2016:**
Jackson, Rapides, Red River, and Sabine

***April 5, 2016 for the Fifth Group (five parishes) Deadline is May 5, 2016:**
Catahoula, East Carroll, Franklin, Lincoln and St. Helena

*Not included in original letter.

This declaration makes FEMA Public Assistance funding available for eligible applicants within the affected areas for Cat A (Debris Removal) and Cat B (Emergency Protective Measures). The details of this declaration are as follows:

State: Louisiana

Federal #: FEMA-DR-4263

Incident: Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding

Incident Period: March 8, 2016 and continuing

Additional parishes may be considered for addition to this declaration subject to qualifying damage assessments.

The President's approval makes federal funding possible to state, tribes, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations (PNP) on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work to protect against rising the flood waters in the approved parishes and for debris removal in those parishes.

GOHSEP will conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) over the next week or so to evaluate damages to public infrastructure. That information will be used to support a request for Permanent Work funding (Cat C thru Cat G) for those parishes that have sustained damages to their roads, bridges, public utilities, buildings, parks, etc. Please be prepared to assist our staff in locating and inspecting those facilities – both parish owned as well as those owned by other government entities such as cities and towns; levee and drainage districts; utility coops; non- profit organizations that provide governmental type services such as schools, hospitals, senior citizen centers, libraries, etc. Our staff will be coordinating these PDAs thru local parish officials.

GOHSEP will also be conducting Applicant Briefings to inform and educate potential applicants in the very near future. You will be informed of that schedule and location(s) as soon as it is available.

For those parishes (and other eligible applicants located therein) that have already been approved for assistance (or those that may be subsequently approved) and have sustained costs due to emergency work and/or debris removal and wish to seek Public Assistance funding, you must submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) within 30 days of the stated declaration date, you can file your RPA as follows:

1. Go to our website: www.LouisianaPA.com
2. If you are a first-time applicant for FEMA Public Assistance:
 - * Click on the **RESOURCES** tab, scroll down and access the **LouisianaPA.com Applicant Access Forms**
 - * First, complete the **New Applicant Form AND LouisianaPA.com Applicant Access Form**. Once completed please email both to la.pa@la.gov.
 - * You will be contacted to confirm your registration and then follow the instructions below.
3. If/when you have an existing LAPA account:
 - * **Login to your Account.**
 - * After login, go to your **Applicant You Represent Box** on the right of the screen and click the **New Request for Assistance** link.
 - * A Create New Request for Assistance Box will open.
 - * In the Grant field select the disaster.
 - * Next select a user from the drop down field or create a new one in the Primary, Alternate and Authorized Contact fields.
 - * If you are a PNP you will fill out the **PNP questionnaire** that appears in your form. PNPs are required to submit the following information with their RPA: [Tax exempt certificate](#) and [organization charter or by laws](#). These items should be scanned and attached to your RPA.
 - * Click **Create** once you have completed the form.

Should you need assistance on this matter, please email RPA.help@la.gov or call (225) 315-7227.