

Resources for Private Non-Profits on Navigating Public Assistance



How to Develop Agreements for Mass Care Services for Mass Care Services

A Guide for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations

July 2022

[How to Develop Agreements for Mass Care Services](#)

What Houses of Worship Need to Know About the FEMA Disaster Aid Process



Applying for a Low-Interest Loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the First Step

Houses of Worship are considered private nonprofit organizations that provide a noncritical, essential social service, such as community and senior citizen centers. This category of nonprofits must go through the loan application process with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance program before FEMA can determine eligibility for the agency's Public Assistance program, which reimburses expenses for emergency protective measures, debris removal and repair or rebuilding of disaster-damaged property.

SBA's low-interest disaster loans provide up to \$2 million for damaged real estate and the repair or replacement of property, such as furniture, fixtures and other eligible inventory.

While a House of Worship is not required to take out a loan, Public Assistance will not fund any associated permanent work unless an SBA loan application has been denied or does not fully cover the permanent work costs.

Religious Organizations that Provide a "Critical Service" do not Have to go through the SBA Process

Nonprofit organizations that run medical and educational facilities are considered "critical services". This category of nonprofit can work with FEMA on a potential grant without applying to SBA first. However, this only applies to facilities providing "critical services". Houses of Worship must still apply for an SBA loan for damaged facilities providing "noncritical services".

Submit Insurance Claims as Soon as Possible

Not all Houses of Worship may carry insurance, but those that do must submit documentation. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate benefits. Federal grants may cover uninsured or underinsured losses.

We encourage everyone to document and insure property and be familiar with their policy. Not all insurance policies are the same. Coverage amounts, deductibles, and payment caps can vary significantly.

Application Process

After a federal disaster declaration is approved, check your state emergency management's website for a schedule of applicant briefings which provide an overview of the Public Assistance program.

All Houses of Worship, whether they provide critical or essential social services, should submit a FEMA Request for Public Assistance through Grants Portal, an online recovery management tool, within 30 days of the date of a presidential disaster declaration. Any questions about the process can be answered by your local and/or state emergency manager.

If eligible, FEMA and the state will then coordinate a Recovery Scoping Meeting to determine reimbursable damages.

[What Houses of Worship Need to Know About the FEMA Disaster Aid Process](#)
[Flyer](#)

Documents Needed When Applying For Public Assistance

Private nonprofits should be prepared to provide the following when applying for FEMA Public Assistance:



IRS letter stating tax-exempt status under sections 501(c), (d), or (e) OR evidence that the organization is a non-revenue producing Nonprofit under state law



Proof of ownership for the damaged facility OR lease or other proof of legal responsibility for the damaged facility



List of services provided in the damaged facility, indicating when and for whom

Learn More
Contact your state or local emergency management agency or visit us online at [fema.gov/assistance/public](https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public)

[Documents Needed When Applying for Public Assistance Graphics](#)

[Purchasing Under a FEMA Award: Resources for Private Nonprofits and Religious Organizations](#)

Nonprofit and religious organizations play a critical role in supporting their communities and may be able to access financial assistance under FEMA grant programs. This fact sheet provides key information and resources to these partners to help ensure compliance with federal requirements when purchasing under a FEMA grant award.

[Purchasing under a FEMA Award: Resources for Private Nonprofits and Religious Organizations](#)



FEMA

Resources for Private Non-Profits on Navigating Public Assistance

Downloadable Informational Flyer: [What Houses of Worship Need to Know About the FEMA Disaster Aid Process Flyer](#) (Zip file has item available in English, Spanish, French, German, Haitian Creole, Korean, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese)

Mass Care Guide: [How to Develop Agreements for Mass Care Services \(nationalmasscarestrategy.org\)](#)

Procurement Guide: [Purchasing under a FEMA Award: Resources for Private Nonprofits and Religious Organizations](#)

Downloadable FEMA Fact Sheet: [Public Assistance: Private Nonprofit Eligibility Factsheet \(fema.gov\)](#)

Downloadable Graphic: [Documents Needed When Applying for Public Assistance Graphics | FEMA.gov](#)

Downloadable Graphic: [Public Assistance Appeal Process Graphics | FEMA.gov](#) (Zip file has item available in English, Spanish, French, German, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese)

Downloadable FEMA Fact Sheet: [Mitigate Disaster Damage with FEMA Public Assistance](#)

Video: [FEMA Public Assistance for Houses of Worship – YouTube](#)

Spanish Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide: [FEMA PAPPG v4 in Spanish](#) (version 4 applicable to emergencies and major disasters declared on or after June 1, 2020.)

Recorded Public Assistance Webinars:

[DHS Center Webinar 20220816 - FEMA Public Assistance and SBA Office of Disaster Assistance resources for places of worship and other community Private Non-Profits \(connectsolutions.com\)](#)

[DHS Center Webinar 20220824 - Sources of Disaster Assistance \(connectsolutions.com\)](#)

Spanish Webinar Presentation: *Recursos del Programa de Asistencia Pública de FEMA y Agencia Federal de Pequeños Negocios (SBA) para Casas de Adoración y Organizaciones Sin Fines de Lucro:* [DHS Center Webinar Room 20221013 \(connectsolutions.com\)](#)

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