

# *Disaster Assistance: A Guide to Recovery Programs*

**A Federal Interagency Publication  
Developed by Signatories to  
the Federal Response Plan**

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# Foreword



After a disaster, our society is expected to be prepared to minister to the injured, maintain life-support services for the community, and assist an affected area return to normal. Local government has the primary responsibility for supplying the resources to respond to and recover from disasters. If localities are overwhelmed, they may need supplemental assistance from the applicable State and, possibly, the Federal Government.

The Federal Government helps States and localities prepare for disasters by providing financial and technical assistance for emergency planning, conducting exercises of plans, and building and maintaining an emergency management infrastructure. It also provides or subsidizes training and offers opportunities for emergency management professionals to come together to exchange ideas and information.

In the event of an actual disaster, a Governor may request a Presidential declaration. This request must satisfy the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288, as amended by PL 100-707). The Stafford Act is the primary legislative authority for the Federal Government to assist local and State governments in executing their responsibilities for disaster response and recovery.

In a major or catastrophic disaster, the *Federal Response Plan* (FRP) will likely be activated. The FRP describes resources Federal agencies can mobilize to support initial emergency live-saving functions if State and local government response capabilities are overwhelmed. It outlines planning assumptions, policies, concept of operations, and organizational structures.

The FRP is being expanded to describe Federal actions, resources, and coordination mechanisms available to assist affected individuals, businesses, and public entities recover from the consequences of a disaster. This interagency publication, *Disaster Assistance: A Guide to Recovery Programs*, summarizes Federal programs that provide recovery assistance.

## Signatories to the Federal Response Plan

Department of Agriculture  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Defense  
Department of Education  
Department of Energy  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Department of the Interior  
Department of Justice

Department of Labor  
Department of State  
Department of Transportation  
Department of the Treasury  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Agency for International Development  
American Red Cross  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Communications Commission

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
General Services Administration  
Interstate Commerce Commission  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
National Communications System  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Personnel Management  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Small Business Administration  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
U.S. Postal Service

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# About this Publication

## Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to transmit basic information about programs of assistance available to individuals, businesses, and public entities after a disaster. These programs help individuals cope with their losses, and affected businesses and public entities restore their structures and operations. The information is intended to serve as a starting point for disaster workers and local, State, and Federal officials to locate sources of help as they seek more definitive information, such as eligibility criteria and application processes. Included are programs that make financial assistance available, as well as those that provide technical assistance and/or goods and other services.

**Use program summaries in this publication only as a guide to potential sources of disaster assistance. Obtain more complete information from the contact noted at the end of each summary.**

## Background

The program summaries in this guide evolved from an initial compilation of programs obtained from the *Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance* (CFDA), the compendium of financial and nonfinancial programs throughout the Federal Government that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. The summaries were reviewed, revised, and added to by staff of the relevant agencies to reflect programs that are specifically intended to apply to disaster recovery and regular agency programs that, in special circumstances, may support disaster recovery.

**Summaries include the notation "CFDA Number." This refers to the program number found in the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*.**

The CFDA includes a comprehensive list of Federal regional and local office addresses and telephone numbers that is also a useful reference for obtaining program information. The CFDA can be obtained in print or for automated use on CD-ROM (compact disc having "read only" memory), on floppy diskettes, or on line through the Federal Assistance Programs Retrieval System. Charges apply. Each automated edition is revised in June and December. For more information on electronic access, contact GSA/IRMS/WKU, Reporters' Building, Room 101, 300 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20407; or call (202) 708-5 126. To order the printed version of the CFDA, contact the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; or call (202) 5 12-0000.

This guide revises and supersedes the *Digest Of Federal Disaster Assistance Programs (DAP-21)*, published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in June 1989.

Additional copies of the guide, as well as copies of the **Federal Response Plan, are** available from the FEMA Distribution Facility, Suite D, 8231 Stayton Drive, Jessup, MD 20794; telephone: (800) 480-2520. Program summary changes or suggestions for improving the publication may be forwarded to the Response and Recovery Directorate, FEMA, 500 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20472.

## Organization and Use of this Publication

An objective of this guide is to reflect in one document the continuum of recovery services available to disaster victims.

Program summaries are organized in two sections: (1) specific agency programs that exist for the express purpose of aiding disaster victims (disaster-specific programs) and (2) regular agency programs that may be applied to disaster recovery under special circumstances (disaster-applicable programs). Section One program summaries include slightly more information than Section Two programs, as reflected below. Inclusion of a program does not necessarily mean that assistance is available. Congress may authorize a program but may not appropriate funds for it in a given fiscal year. Current efforts of Congress and the

**Eligibility requirements may be more comprehensive or more restrictive than they appear to be in this guide. It is important, therefore, that readers obtain additional information about program eligibility from the program source.**

Program Type	Information Included in Summaries								
	Agency	Activating Mechanism	Objectives	Assistance Provided	Cost-Sharing Requirements	Eligibility	Application	Contact	CFDA Number
Section One	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Section Two	X		X	X		X		X	X

Administration to streamline government also may result in the elimination of some of the programs or consolidation into larger block grants.

Program summaries are organized alphabetically by title in Sections One and Two. Some program titles have been rearranged to begin with the most descriptive word in the title. As a result, a number of program titles have been changed from the titles that appear in the CFDA. See Appendix Two for a crosswalk between program titles used in this publication and program titles in the CFDA.

To assist the reader further in finding specific information, summaries are indexed alphabetically as follows:

1. Agency-by the Federal or nonprofit agency that has primary responsibility for administration of the program.
2. Type of Assistance-by assistance available, including Advisory and Counseling Services; Direct Payments; Donations; Education, Technical Information, and Training; Formula Grants, Project and Other Grants; Loans; Sale of Goods or Property; Specialized Services; and Technical Assistance.
3. Recipient-by the category of recipient of assistance, as follows: Federal agencies; States; Localities; Nonprofit organizations (sometimes specified by category, such as universities, or organizations that do the work of government); Businesses; and Individuals. *Note that the categories in this index are repeated in abbreviated form at the beginning (upper right) of each program summary.*

Assistance to individuals may include funds for temporary housing for victims, individual and family grants to meet disaster-related expenses, and loans to individuals for repair or replacement of real and personal property. Funds may flow directly from the Federal Government to the individual, or from the Federal Government to the individual through a State or a subdivision of a State, or from a nonprofit organization to the individual.

Assistance to businesses (including farms and sole proprietorships) generally is made available when the ability to continue operations is terminated or impaired by a disaster. Such assistance may include loans or grants to replace livestock herds, restore damaged structures, or replace inventories.

Assistance to public entities (States, localities, etc.) comprises measures such as repair or replacement of non-federally supported thoroughfares and water control facilities (e.g., dikes, irrigation works, levees, and drainage systems) and clearance of debris necessary to protect the public interest. It also includes repair or replacement of Federal buildings, State-supported schools, or public facilities in U.S. Trust Territories or on Native American lands. It includes loans to communities that have incurred substantial losses of tax and other revenue and the use of government-owned equipment, supplies, facilities,

personnel, and other resources. Recipients of public assistance may include States, political subdivisions of States (counties or parishes), any type of organization under the aegis of a State agency, localities (municipalities, unincorporated towns, water control districts, etc.), U.S. Trust Territories or possessions, Indian tribes, universities, or other nonprofit organizations.