



Substantial Damage and Section 1206 Funding

WHAT

When your community receives a major disaster declaration and is authorized for Public Assistance (PA) Category G, you become eligible for reimbursement for post-disaster activities related to building code and floodplain management administration and enforcement (under Section 1206 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018).

WHY

Your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NFIP participation makes a community eligible for PA Categories C-G and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for projects located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). To remain in compliance with the NFIP, a community must conduct Substantial Damage Estimations (SDEs) within the SFHA after damages occur (regardless of the source of the damage).

Section 1206 allows communities to be reimbursed for these required post-disaster building code and floodplain management administration and enforcement activities for up to 180 days after the declaration (after PA Category C-G permanent work).

WHO

The community Floodplain Administrator (FPA) and Building Official are responsible for these activities. To access Section 1206 funding under the PA program, these individuals may need to work with the community Emergency Management Agency.

HOW

Your community may choose to do this work internally, utilize mutual aid, or hire outside vendors to assist with the work.

The FEMA Public Assistance Program Delivery Manager (PDMG) assigned to your community can also assist with the formulation of the PA Cat G project. Additionally, the Florida Division of Emergency Management NFIP Coordinator is available to assist with questions related to substantial damage.

NEXT STEPS

Follow the steps below to conduct substantial damage activities and apply for Section 1206 Funding:

- 1 Contact your FPA and Building Official and review your Substantial Damage Administrative Procedures
- 2 Request Data Analytics (NFIP Claims and Individual Assistance Data) from FEMA and sign the Information Sharing Agreement
- 3 Approximate the number of structures in the SFHA that are likely damaged and determine the number of teams and the length of time required to conduct SDEs
- 4 Determine if you have the internal capacity to complete these. If not, request assistance via mutual aid or vendor
- 5 Conduct SDEs
- 6 Send letters to residents informing them of Substantial Damage Determinations
- 7 Monitor development within the floodplain (SFHA) to ensure enforcement actions are taken
- 8 Complete any necessary work (e.g., review permits)
- 9 Gather documentation for PA project and process accordingly within 180 days after the declaration

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Section 1206 DRRRA Video](#)

[DRRA Section 1206 FEMA PA Companion Guide](#)

[FEMA FAQ 1](#)

[FEMA FAQ 2](#)

[Montana Floodplain Management Quick Guide](#)

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