

Public Assistance on Private Property

In very limited circumstances, an eligible applicant may request Public Assistance as emergency protective measures for minimal temporary repairs to otherwise impassable, privately owned roads and bridges in order to provide emergency access to residences as an alternative to temporary housing.

Overview

Public Assistance is generally not available for repairs to privately owned roads and bridges that were damaged in a disaster. However, in limited situations, Public Assistance may be available to an eligible applicant for a minimal level of temporary repairs to re-establish emergency access to private roads and bridges that places survivors back in their homes.

The requirement for determining eligibility is legal responsibility of the damaged road or bridge. It is not determined by ownership. The temporary repairs are eligible only up to the basic level of work that allows emergency vehicles to reach the residences. Repairs must be an economically feasible alternative to temporary housing funded by FEMA's Individual Assistance program.

Guidance

Temporary repairs to privately owned roads and bridges are assessed for Public Assistance eligibility on a case-by-case basis. The temporary repairs may be eligible in situations where:

- There is no access for emergency vehicles to residences because of disaster-damaged privately owned roads and bridges, and that fact has been verified by the FEMA.
- An eligible Public Assistance applicant performs the temporary repair emergency access work to privately owned roads and bridges through established Right of Entry/Hold Harmless or prescriptive easement access.
- Repair of the bridge or road must comply with all environmental and historic preservation laws and regulations and must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator.
- It is highly recommended that the eligible applicant receives approval from FEMA prior to doing the work, as FEMA's Public Assistance funding is a reimbursement program.
- There may be no duplication of benefits from FEMA's Individual Assistance Program.

The eligible applicant must demonstrate that the temporary repair emergency access work economically eliminates the need for temporary housing for the affected residences meeting the following conditions:

- The home must be a sole or primary residence
- The home must be habitable



FEMA