



National Fire Academy

R0335 – Administration of Public Assistance for Community Recovery

Version: 7th Edition, 12th Printing, February 2024

Quarter:

ACE Credit: In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category, 2 semester hours in emergency management.

IACET Continuing Education Units: 3.7

Length of Course: 6 Days (37 hr., 10 min. contact hours, Sunday – Friday)

Prerequisite: Yes

Curriculum: Planning and Information Management

Training Specialist: Daniel Newland

Instructor:

Instructor email/phone:

Classroom: J-

Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

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Course Description (Catalog)

R0335 – “Administration of Public Assistance for Community Recovery.” The purpose of this 6-day course is to help students increase the administrative alignment of their organizations, people, processes and documentation to meet federal standards for Public Assistance recovery. The objective of this course is to familiarize the students with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program. The objective of the program is to provide assistance to states, local governments, Indian tribal governments, U.S. territories and certain Private Nonprofit (PNP) organizations to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the president.

Course topics include:

- The Stafford Act.
- National Incident Management System documentation, policies and procedures related to FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program.
- FEMA's expectations for Public Assistance reimbursement of labor and equipment, materials, rented equipment, and contract costs post-disaster/emergency.

The course methodologies include activities/discussions, disaster/emergency case study analysis and individual/group projects.

Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)

Representatives from States, Local Governments, Indian Tribal Governments, U.S. Territories (Guam, Puerto Rico, etc.) and certain PNP organizations who are or may be involved in any part of response and recovery efforts through the Public Assistance processes for their agency and community.

Course Scope (Goal)

The objective of this course is to familiarize the students with the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program. The objective of the program is to provide assistance to States, Local Governments, Indian Tribal Governments, U.S. Territories and certain Private Nonprofit (PNP) organizations to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)

After successfully completing this course, the students will be able to accomplish the following:

- Assess their community's preparedness with regard to processes that will facilitate the eligibility/receipt of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program after a "declared" Major Disaster/Emergency.
- Explain key components of the Public Assistance process, given the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) "Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide."
- Determine Public Assistance Grant Program eligibility based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, given the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288, as amended) and Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).
- Complete the Force Account Labor/Equipment Summary Record forms to support an agency's cost recovery, given a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), a Damage Assessment Matrix, and a review of Incident Command System (ICS) forms.
- Prepare the damage description for a project, given a tornado scenario.

- Prepare the Scope of Work (SOW) for a project, given an earthquake scenario.
- Prepare a list of documentation needed to support Public Assistance funding based on review of the two Incident Command System (ICS) Incident Action Plans (IAPs) and an Emergency Work Project Worksheet package for a major flood event.
- Prepare a Public Assistance Project Worksheet package for Permanent Work (Categories C through G).

Course Delivery Method

The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact in an academic classroom environment [on campus at the National Emergency Training Center \(NETC\) in Emmitsburg, Maryland](#). This classroom course is designed for officials from local, county, regional, state, tribal, or U.S. territories who are or could be the public assistance representatives for their community. During this 6-day delivery, students will reside in dormitories provided on campus with classes conducted in classrooms designed for critical student/instructor interaction. All course materials are designed for interactive classroom environments, in either paper notebook or electronic formats.

Course Schedule

The purpose of the course schedule is to give the students, at a glance, the required preparation, activities, and evaluation components of this course.

DAY 1	DAY 2
Introduction Unit 1: Introduction to Community Disaster Assistance	Debrief Day 1 Evening Assignment Unit 2: Public Assistance Process (cont'd)
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Unit 2: Public Assistance Process	Unit 3: Eligibility Determination Unit 4: Incident Command System Forms Review and Determination of Force Account Labor Expenditures

Day 1 Evening:

- A. Read "Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide" pages 17-64
- B. Activity 2.1: Public Assistance Grant Program, Part 1
- C. Review the Exercise Simulation System Document (ESSD) for Central City

Day 2 Evening:

- A. Read "Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide" pages 65-96
- B. Activity 4.2: Public Assistance Grant Program, Part 2

Note: This schedule is subject to modification by the instructors and approved by the training specialist.

DAY 3	DAY 4
<p>Debrief Day 2 Evening Assignment</p> <p>Unit 4: Incident Command System Forms Review and Determination of Force Account Labor Expenditures (cont'd)</p>	<p>Debrief Day 3 Evening Assignment</p> <p>Unit 5: Describing Damage for a Project — Tornado (cont'd)</p> <p>Unit 6: Describing Scope of Work for a Project — Earthquake</p>
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
<p>Unit 4: Incident Command System Forms Review and Determination of Force Account Labor Expenditures (cont'd)</p> <p>Unit 5: Describing Damage for a Project — Tornado</p>	<p>Unit 6: Describing Scope of Work for a Project — Earthquake (cont'd)</p> <p>Unit 7: Identifying Documentation for an Emergency Work Project — Flood</p>
<p>Day 3 Evening:</p> <p>A. Read “Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide” pages 97-153</p> <p>B. Activity 5.2: Public Assistance Grant Program, Part 3</p>	<p>Day 4 Evening:</p> <p>A. Read “Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide” pages 153-203</p> <p>B. Activity 7.2: Public Assistance Grant Program, Part 4</p>

DAY 5	DAY 6
<p>Debrief Day 4 Evening Assignment</p> <p>Unit 7: Identifying Documentation for an Emergency Work Project — Flood (cont'd)</p> <p>Unit 8: Using Documentation for a Permanent Work Project — Hurricane</p>	<p>Final Exam</p> <p>Unit 8: Using Documentation for a Permanent Work Project — Hurricane (cont'd)</p> <p>Debrief Final Project Worksheet</p>
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
<p>Unit 8: Using Documentation for a Permanent Work Project — Hurricane (cont'd)</p> <p>Submit Final Project Worksheet</p>	<p>Course Conclusion</p> <p>Graduation</p>

Course Resources (Instructional Materials)

In order to be fully prepared, obtain a copy of the required textbooks and other instructional materials prior to the first day of class.

Required Readings

The student must complete required readings during the course to be able to thoughtfully participate in discussions and activities.

“Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide” (FP 104-009-2)

Suggested Reading/Resources

Suggested readings and resources are not evaluated, but may enhance the student’s understanding, serve as additional sources for citation, and promote discussion of course material.

None.

Required Resources (Course Textbook)

Student Manual.

Supplemental Resources (Supplemental Course Textbook)

None.

Grading Methodology (Evaluation Procedures)

Student Grade Record	Student Name:	
	Grade Date:	
Course Assessment Tool	Total Possible Points	Student Points Earned
Project Worksheet Development/Preparation	100	
Course Final Exam	100	
Total Points	200	

To compute the student's final course grade, calculate the student's total points earned and divide that total by two. Using the chart below, determine the student's final course grade. The student must achieve an average total score of 70 (i.e., letter grade "C") to successfully complete the course.

Numerical Score	Letter Grade	
90 – 100	A	
80 – 89	B	
70 – 79	C	
Less than 70	F	Final Course Grade:

Course Outline

Introduction (Day 1)

Objectives

None.

Unit 1: Introduction to Community Disaster Assistance (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Assess their community's preparedness with regard to processes that will facilitate the eligibility/receipt of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program after a "declared" Major Disaster/Emergency.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Define disaster.
- 1.2 Describe the difference between a disaster and an emergency.
- 1.3 Analyze their community's preparedness for Public Assistance.

Unit 2: Public Assistance Process (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Explain key components of the Public Assistance process, given the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) “Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide.”

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Define risk assessment, capability assessment and initial damage assessment, and explain how they relate to the Public Assistance Grant Program.
- 2.2 Describe the role of the Stafford Act in the Public Assistance Grant Program.
- 2.3 Describe the steps in the Public Assistance process.
- 2.4 Identify the role of the State, FEMA, Project Specialists, Technical Specialists, and the Applicant.
- 2.5 Identify the key components of the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) as it relates to the Public Assistance process.
- 2.6 Identify key components of the Public Assistance Grant Program.

Unit 3: Eligibility Determination (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Determine Public Assistance Grant Program eligibility based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, given the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288, as amended) and Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Define the components of the Public Assistance Grant Program pyramid of eligibility.
- 3.2 Distinguish between which Applicants, facilities, work and costs would be eligible or ineligible, given examples.

Unit 4: Incident Command System Forms Review and Determination of Force Account Labor Expenditures (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Complete the Force Account Labor/Equipment Summary Record forms to support an agency's cost recovery, given a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), a Damage Assessment Matrix, and a review of Incident Command System (ICS) forms.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Describe the purpose and components of ICS forms relevant to the Public Assistance Grant Program documentation.
- 4.2 Identify which ICS forms could be used to document information needed as Public Assistance support.
- 4.3 Analyze the damages for an assigned area in Central City, given the preliminary damage report and scenario for a tornado touchdown.
- 4.4 Identify key components of the Public Assistance Grant Program.
- 4.5 Identify the required information for completing the force account labor/equipment, contract work, materials, and rented equipment summary record forms.

Unit 5: Describing Damage for a Project — Tornado (Day 3)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Prepare the damage description for a project, given a tornado scenario.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Identify the content needed for the Request for Public Assistance form.
- 5.2 Identify the purpose and importance of the Recovery Scoping Meeting.
- 5.3 Define the purpose of project formulation, and identify the necessary project content.
- 5.4 More effectively describe damage in terms of the function of the facility and its features or items requiring repair. Explain the importance of clearly defining damage in quantitative terms.
- 5.5 Describe damage as part of project formulation.
- 5.6 Define Public Assistance Grant Program special considerations.
- 5.7 Identify key components of the Public Assistance Grant Program.

Unit 6: Describing Scope of Work for a Project — Earthquake (Day 4)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 6.1 Prepare the Scope of Work (SOW) for a project, given an earthquake scenario.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 6.1 Identify Public Assistance eligible work.

- 6.2 Describe the project SOW using quantifiable terms consistent with the damage description, given examples.
- 6.3 Describe work completed and work to be completed.

Unit 7: Identifying Documentation for an Emergency Work Project — Flood (Day 4)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 7.1 Prepare a list of documentation needed to support Public Assistance funding based on review of the two Incident Command System (ICS) Incident Action Plans (IAPs) and an Emergency Work Project Worksheet package for a major flood event.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 7.1 Identify which ICS forms could be used to document information needed to support Public Assistance funding.
- 7.2 Identify other sources and forms of documentation needed to support and confirm Public Assistance eligible costs based on information in an ICS IAP and a Project Worksheet package.
- 7.3 Identify key components of the Public Assistance Grant Program.

Unit 8: Using Documentation for a Permanent Work Project — Hurricane (Day 5)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 8.1 Prepare a Public Assistance Project Worksheet package for Permanent Work (Categories C through G).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 8.1 Identify an eligible Permanent Work project.
- 8.2 Complete a Project Worksheet package including the following items: basic project information, damage description and dimensions, Scope of Work (SOW), Special Considerations form, project cost, and any necessary supporting documentation.

Policies

Class Attendance and Cancellation Policy

Attendance

- You are required to attend all sessions of the course. If you do not, you may not receive a certificate, and your stipend may be denied.
- If you need to depart campus early and miss any portion of the course and/or graduation, you must make the request in writing to the NFA training specialist. The training specialist, in collaboration with the superintendent, may waive the attendance requirement in order to accommodate you with extraordinary circumstances as long as you complete all course requirements. If you receive approval for departing early, you must forward the approval to the Admissions Office so your stipend reimbursement is not affected.

Student Substitutions

Substitutions for NFA courses are made from waiting lists; your department cannot send someone in your place.

Cancellations or No-Shows

NFA's mission for delivery of courses is impaired significantly by cancellations and no-shows. It is very difficult and costly to recruit students at the last minute. Currently there is a two-year ban on student attendance for students who are no-shows or cancel within 30 days of the course start date without a valid reason. If you receive such a restriction, your supervisor needs to send a letter to our Admissions Office explaining the cancellation/no-show.

Course Failure

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You do not have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

Student Code of Conduct Policy

Students, instructors and staff are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from campus and denial of stipends.

Writing Expectations

Student writing will conform to the generally accepted academic standards for college papers. Papers will reflect the original work of the student and give appropriate credit through citations for ideas belonging to other authors, publications or organizations. Student written work should be free of grammatical and syntax errors, free of profanity or obscene language or ideas, and reflect critical thinking related to the course subject matter.

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA, Sixth Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the NFA. Assignments completed in a narrative essay, composition format, abstract, and discussion posts must follow the citation style cited in the APA, Sixth Edition.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments on the day and time determined by the course instructor and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, you must manage competing demands on your time. Final assignment papers will not be accepted after the deadline. Any paper submitted after the deadline will receive a “0” grade for that assignment.

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Grading

Please review the following rubrics that explain how grades will be awarded.

Students who do not complete the entire course will be awarded an Incomplete (I) grade. In accordance with National Fire Academy academic policies, an Incomplete (I) grade must be removed by the end of the next semester following the course, or it automatically becomes a Failing (F) grade.

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You do not have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies.html

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to exhibit exemplary ethical behavior and conduct as part of the NFA community and society as a whole. Acts of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, deliberate falsification, and other unethical behaviors will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to report academic misconduct when they witness a violation. All cases of academic misconduct shall be reported by the instructor to the Training Specialist.

If a student is found to have engaged in misconduct and the allegations are upheld, the penalties may include, but are not limited to one or a combination of the following:

- expulsion,
- withholding of stipend or forfeiture of stipend paid,
- exclusion from future classes for a specified period; depending on the severity it could range from 1-10 years, and/or
- forfeiture of certificate for course(s) enrolled in at NETC.

Refer to NFA-specific Standard Operating Procedure 700.1 – *Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics* for more information.

Grading Rubrics

COURSE EVALUATION PLAN INCLUDING GRADING RUBRIC

The following assessment tools comprise the evaluation plan for the APACR course.

Assessment Tool #1: Project Worksheet Development/Preparation — Activity 8.1

Each student will develop the elements for and prepare a FEMA Project Worksheet (Attachment A) related to a hurricane simulation as part of Unit 8 on Day 5. This Project Worksheet will be based on Units 1 through 7, and will be presented to the other students and instructors on Day 6. The instructors will review and grade the student's Project Worksheets during the evening of Day 5. The written Project Worksheet will be evaluated by the instructors using the seven-section Individual Project Worksheet Review and Grading Rubric (Attachment B). Many of FEMA's review components are for items performed by FEMA Public Assistance personnel, and not by the Public Assistance Applicant (i.e., the student). Therefore, an abbreviated checklist derivative was developed.

The number of points for each of the seven sections varies based on the development/preparation complexity of each section. The student will need a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible 100 points to have successfully completed the Project Worksheet. If the student does not initially earn at least 70 points, the instructors will specifically describe what the student must do to bring the Project Worksheet up to a passing level. In this situation, the student will have one opportunity on Day 6 to improve the Project Worksheet, and his/her maximum Project Worksheet score will be 70 ("C"), regardless of the quality of the student's changes. The student's Project Worksheet score will be entered by the instructors on each Student Grade Record (Attachment D).

Assessment Tool #2: Course Final Exam

A comprehensive exam consisting of 25 multiple-choice questions will be administered to each student on Day 6 (Final Exam version 1, 2 or 3 and answer key for each version). The exam will be based on the FEMA "Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide" (FP 104-009-2), which will have been the basis for previous class discussions (Units 2, 4, 5 and 7) and required independent reading assigned on Days 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Each question will be worth four points. The student will need a minimum score of 70 points out of a possible 100 points. The student will have three opportunities to achieve a score of at least 70 points to successfully complete the exam. The student's exam score will be entered by the instructors on each Student Grade Record (Attachment E).

Attachment A

FEMA Project Worksheet Sample

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency

OMB. Control Number: 1660-0017
Expires: November 30, 2023

PROJECT WORKSHEET

PAPERWORK BURDEN DISCLOSURE NOTICE					
Public reporting burden for this data collection is estimated to average 1.30 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting this form. This collection of information is not required to obtain or retain benefits. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed in the upper right corner of this form. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0017) NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.					
DISASTER FEMA - _____ -DR- _____		PROJECT #	PA ID #	DATE	CATEGORY
DAMAGED FACILITY			WORK COMPLETE AS OF _____ : _____ %		
APPLICANT		COUNTY			
LOCATION			LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
DAMAGE DESCRIPTION AND DIMENSIONS					
SCOPE OF WORK					
Does the Scope of Work change the pre-disaster conditions at the site? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					
Special Considerations issues included? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Hazard Mitigation proposal included? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					
Is there insurance coverage on this facility? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO					
PROJECT COST					
ITEM	CODE	NARRATIVE	QUANTITY/UNIT	UNIT PRICE	COST
				TOTAL COST	
PREPARED BY		TITLE	SIGNATURE		
APPLICANT REP.		TITLE	SIGNATURE		

Attachment B

Individual Project Worksheet Review and Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Worksheet Component		Score
1. Basic Project Information Must be prepared by blocks and include all appropriate information to identify the project: declaration number, Project Worksheet reference number, date, PA ID/FIPS Number, work category, Applicant, work completed, damaged facility, county, location, latitude and longitude.		Max 10 points
2. Damage Description and Dimensions Must demonstrate eligible damage, including: cause of damage, Applicant responsibility, pre-disaster condition (i.e., design, function, capacity, and active use), quantifying damages or emergency services, location, and reference to attachments (e.g., continuation sheets, photos, maps, plans, bids/quotes, etc.).		Max 20 points
3. Scope of Work (SOW) Must demonstrate eligible work, ensuring: consistency with the damage description and project costs, description of necessary work using quantifiable and descriptive terms, the inclusion of cost methods and calculations, description of work completed and work to be completed, a description of any work to restore a facility beyond its pre-disaster condition, description of any special considerations that will affect the SOW or project cost, description of the cost estimate basis, and reference to attachments (e.g., plans, photos, other supporting documentation).		Max 20 points
4. Project Cost Must demonstrate eligible costs, ensuring: separation of work completed and work to be completed, consistency with the SOW, use of appropriate cost codes, display of cost estimate methodology and force account costs (e.g., labor, equipment, overtime, and straight time, including organizational pay policy), display of contracted costs (e.g., contract type, procurement policies, rental agreements), and reference to attachments (e.g., payroll records, contracts, other supporting documentation).		Max 20 points
5. Special Considerations Special Considerations sheet attached; if any, show consistency with cost estimate.		Max 5 points

Project Worksheet Component		Score
6. Documentation Must support project eligibility, including: maps, photos (pre-/post-disaster), plans, technical reports, maintenance records, insurance policies, applicable building/fire codes, calculation sheets, lease agreements, inspection reports, contracts, rental agreements, vendor invoices, employee/contractor time records, and any other supporting documentation.		Max 20 points
7. Overall Project Worksheet Costs in the cost estimate are addressed in damage description/dimensions and SOW Project Worksheet areas, Project Worksheet formulated correctly based on appropriate Public Assistance category of work (C through G), and the Project Worksheet successfully demonstrated Applicant facility/work/cost eligibility.		Max 5 points

Total Score: _____

Instructor Notes:

Numerical Score	Letter Grade
90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
Less than 70	F

Activity Grade: _____