

Public Assistance Pilot Program

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Background

- June 1, 2007 – PA Pilot Roll-out
- June 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 – Implement Pilot Procedures
- March 31, 2009 – Submit Report to Congress



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Key Pilot Procedures

- Grants on the Basis of Estimates (categories A, C-G)
- Increased Federal Share Incentive (category A)
- Debris Recycling (category A)
- Force Account Labor (category A)



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Grants on the Basis of Estimates

- Categories A, or C-G (no emergency work)
- For large projects up to \$500K
- Federal share of grant paid based on estimate
- Work must be completed
- Applicant can keep underrun money
- No appeal process for large projects paid based on estimates



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Increased Federal Share Incentive

- Five percent increase in Federal share to State, local, or tribal governments with:
 - FEMA-approved Debris Management Plan and
 - At least two pre-qualified debris and wreckage removal contractors identified prior to a disaster or signed, pre-event contract
- Applicable to category A work
- 5% is added to all category A work if an applicant qualifies



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Debris Recycling

- Applicant retains revenue from the salvage value of recyclable disaster debris
- No offset on PW for salvage value
- Applicable to category A work
- Any size project – large or small
- Applicants do not need to have a debris plan to participate in this procedure



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Force Account Labor

- Reimburse the straight- or regular-time salaries and benefits of staff performing debris-related activities.
- Applicable to category A work
- Any size project – large or small
- Applicants do not need to have a debris plan to participate in this procedure



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Status

- Has been implemented in 30 disasters
- Entered into NEMIS (as of May 1):
 - 1,093 Applicants; 1,517 Project Worksheets
 - 98 percent of Applicants are using force account labor
 - 92 percent of PWs are using force account labor
 - 8 percent of PWs are using grants on the basis of estimates
 - 3 Applicants have received additional 5 percent
(some PWs use more than one procedure)



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Concurrent Efforts

- Grants on the Basis of Estimates
 - Permanent Work: cost estimating rule to be published
 - Debris: developing enhanced debris estimation technology that will be ready to test this summer
- Increased Federal Share Incentive
 - Debris management plan workshops will continue while funding remains – we're looking to find alternative delivery methods such as shortening to a 1-day workshop or developing a CD-Rom



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Next Steps

- PA Pilot “Hotwash” in September with select FEMA and State PAOs that have used Pilot procedures
- Evaluation of Pilot and preparation of report to Congress



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Regulatory Changes

- Grants on the Basis of Estimates – would require changes to 44 CFR §§206.203 (large project threshold), 206.204 (cost overruns), 206.205 (reimbursement of eligible costs), and 206.206 (appeals)
- Debris Recycling – based on 44 CFR §13.25 use of “program income” would be agreed to in Federal-State Agreement
- Force Account Labor – would require change to 44 CFR§206.228(a)(4) which does not allow for straight time and benefits of permanent staff under sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act



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