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FEMA Announces \$600 Million to Help Communities Reduce Flood Risk

Mitigation activities save lives and reduce the cost of future disasters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a new \$600 million funding opportunity for states, territories and Tribal Nations to make their communities safer from flooding.

FEMA is making this funding available through the Fiscal Year 2026 Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current funding opportunity. This program was specifically designed to expedite funding to states, territories, and Tribal Nations that recently experienced a severe flooding disaster. Because floods are the most common and costly type of natural disaster, this funding is critical for communities across the country.

FEMA's [Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current](#) program funds community-led projects to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to structures and buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. This grant is made available after Presidentially declared emergency or major flood-related disasters. This new funding opportunity includes programmatic changes aimed at reducing the administrative burden and hurdles on applicants and expediting the delivery of funding, such as removing project scoping activities as an eligible project type and allowing the consolidation of activation application periods when multiple qualifying disasters occur during this funding opportunity cycle.

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FEMA Announces \$600 Million to Help Communities Reduce Flood Risk (cont'd)



Application deadlines vary. States, tribes or territories must have received a flood-related emergency or major disaster declaration between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2027, in order to be eligible for the funding opportunity. For each qualifying flood event, FEMA will provide a deadline to eligible applicants. Local governments interested in this funding opportunity should contact their [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#).

Comprehensive information on the Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current funding opportunity—including eligibility criteria, application deadlines, cost-share and other essential details—is available online at [Grants.gov](#).

(Taken from FEMA Bulletin, July 21, 2026)



Types of Disaster Assistance Available from FEMA

FEMA offers several types of disaster assistance to homeowners and renters who were affected by Tropical Storm Arthur on June 17-18. Survivors in **Avoyelles, St. Landry, St. Tammany** and **Terrebonne** parishes may apply for assistance under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program directly helps disaster survivors with uninsured or underinsured basic critical needs such as damage to a home, car or personal items. FEMA cannot provide financial help when any other source – flood insurance or financial assistance from nonprofit agencies – has covered the same disaster-related need.

Under Individual Assistance, FEMA provides several types of financial and direct assistance to eligible individuals and families. These may include:

Housing Assistance

- ♦ **Rental Assistance** to rent housing if you are displaced from a disaster-damaged primary residence. You may use this money to rent a house, apartment, manufactured home, recreational vehicle or other dwelling.
- ♦ **Lodging Expense Reimbursement** for emergency housing needs if you cannot return to your home because of the disaster. The money can be used to stay in a hotel or motel after the

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Types of Disaster Assistance Available from FEMA (cont'd)



disaster while you look for a rental unit.

- ♦ **Home Repair or Replacement Assistance** to help repair or replace a disaster-damaged primary residence to safe and sanitary condition.
- ♦ **Accessibility Needs** to help make accessibility repairs and upgrades such as an exterior ramp, grab bars and a paved path to the entrance of your home.

Other Needs Assistance

- ♦ Displacement Assistance is a one-time lump sum of money you can use to stay in a hotel or motel, with family and friends, or for other short-term housing while you look for temporary housing.
- ♦ Money to help you with necessary expenses and serious needs caused by a disaster.
- ♦ Essential needs such as water, food, first aid, prescriptions, infant formula, breastfeeding supplies, diapers, personal hygiene items and fuel for transportation. Note: This is not a form of reimbursement for loss of power or replacing spoiled food.
- ♦ Repair and/or replacement of appliances, room furnishings, and a personal or family computer that was damaged. This can also include money for books, uniforms, tools, additional computers and other items required for school or work, including self-employment.
- ♦ Medical and dental expenses because the disaster caused an injury or illness.
- ♦ Childcare expenses or increased childcare expenses caused by the disaster.
- ♦ Miscellaneous items such as a generator, dehumidifier or chainsaw that you purchased or rented after the disaster to help you recover.
- ♦ Repair and/or replacement of a vehicle damaged by the disaster when you don't have another vehicle you can use.
- ♦ Moving and storage of personal property from your home to prevent additional damage, usually while you are making repairs to your home or moving to a new place due to the disaster.
- ♦ Learn more about FEMA's Individual Assistance program at fema.gov/assistance/individual.

Ways to apply

- ♦ The fastest way to apply to FEMA is online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- ♦ You may also use the [FEMA mobile app](#).
- ♦ Call the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**. Lines are open from **6 a.m. to 1 a.m. CT daily**. If you use a relay service, captioned telephone or other service, you can give FEMA your number for that service. Helpline specialists speak many languages. Press 2 for Spanish.

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Types of Disaster Assistance Available from FEMA (cont'd)



- ♦ Visit any Disaster Recovery Center to receive in-person assistance. To find one close to you, use your ZIP code to search [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC).

For an accessible video on how to apply visit: [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

For more information, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4927](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4927). Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMARegion6 and at facebook.com/FEMARegion6/.

(Taken from FEMA.gov, Fact Sheets, July 20, 2026)



LFMA Disaster Response Team, volunteers sprung into action in Avoyelles Parish after TS Arthur.

(l to r): Tatanisha White, LADOTD
Shandy Heil, Half Associates
Michelle Brumfield, LADOTD
Evelyn Campo, LFMA DRT, Desire Line

ASCE 24-24 to be Included in the 2027 Edition of the International Building Codes

Last week, a coalition of organizations, including ASFPF, secured a major win at the ICC Public Comment Hearings in Hartford, Connecticut, successfully defending the inclusion of ASCE 24-24 in the 2027 International Codes, including the Building, Residential, and Existing Building code volumes. The coalition was also successful in overturning a committee's earlier decision to not include ASCE 24-24 in the International Residential Code.



The primary effect is to extend the regulated flood hazard area to include the 500-year floodplain when shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and to require buildings to be elevated or protected to at least the 500-year flood elevation. Higher levels of protection are required for essential and critical facilities.

Although ASFPF was a co-sponsor of these actions last week, we could not have made it through the gauntlet of Code Hearings over the past year without our great partners at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), who led the effort, and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Flood Mitigation Industry Association (FMIA) as well as individuals who served on the ASCE 24-24 Committee, including Carol Friedland from Louisiana State University and Jessica Mandrick. I'd also like to recognize Rebecca Quinn, Manny Perotin, and Jeff Herd, who represented ASFPF and were instrumental throughout this process, and Del Schwalls who represented ASFPF's Florida Chapter, FFMA.

The final step in the ICC code update process is the online local government vote, held from May 8-22. It is only fitting that the local building code officials who are members of ICC are the ones to make the final confirmation. We're optimistic the inclusion of code changes incorporating ASCE 24-24 will be affirmed since, historically, the online local government vote is supportive of the Public Comment Hearing vote.

The reasons for updating flood standards are numerous and, as a nation, we simply cannot afford to stick with outdated standards that are no longer sufficient, as evidenced by the nation's average annual flood losses topping \$40 billion per year. The figure represents direct losses, when you consider total economic losses, [estimates are at least \\$180 billion per year.](#)

Although adopting ASCE 24-24 standards in flood-prone areas will involve modest upfront costs, the long-term payoff is undeniable: smaller insurance premiums, lower annual cost of homeownership, reduced risk, and a more resilient building inventory that will serve families, businesses, and communities for decades to come.

For those looking to get a jumpstart on adopting the ASCE-24-24 standards, ASFPF is providing its members with free digital access to the publication. [Learn more](#)

(Taken from floods.org, News & Views)

LFMA Summer Workshop Re-Cap

“Strengthening Disaster Response & Community Resilience”

This year’s Summer Workshop brought together members for an engaging and informative in-person training focused on strengthening disaster response and building community resilience.



The training provided an in-depth look at Substantial Damage Estimation procedures, including the SDE triage and assessment process. The discussion highlighted the importance of having a clear process in place before an event occurs so communities can respond efficiently when disaster strikes.

The training discussed the role of the LFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) and the importance of coordinated efforts in supporting disaster response and recovery operations. Shandy Heil and Evelyn Campo gave reports on the DRT volunteers and the field work for the SDE operation in Avoyelles.

Beyond response and assessment, the workshop emphasized that community resilience begins long before a disaster occurs. By understanding hazards, identifying vulnerabilities, planning ahead, and investing in mitigation, communities can reduce future risks and strengthen their ability to recover. While disasters cannot always be prevented, proactive planning and effective mitigation strategies can lessen their impacts and help communities recover stronger.

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LFMA Summer Workshop Re-Cap

“Strengthening Disaster Response & Community Resilience” (cont’d)



One of the most valuable aspects of the Summer Workshop was the opportunity for members to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and learn from one another. The exchange of ideas and real-world perspectives reinforced that strengthening disaster response and community resilience is a shared responsibility.

As we move forward, the knowledge gained from this year’s Summer Workshop will continue to support efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate future disasters. Until we meet at the Fall Workshop.

~tw





FALL WORKSHOP



Louisiana Floodplain
Management Association

Date: Friday, October 16, 2026

Location: Gonzales, LA

Time: 8:00AM – 12:30PM

Contact: Danielle Honor-Young

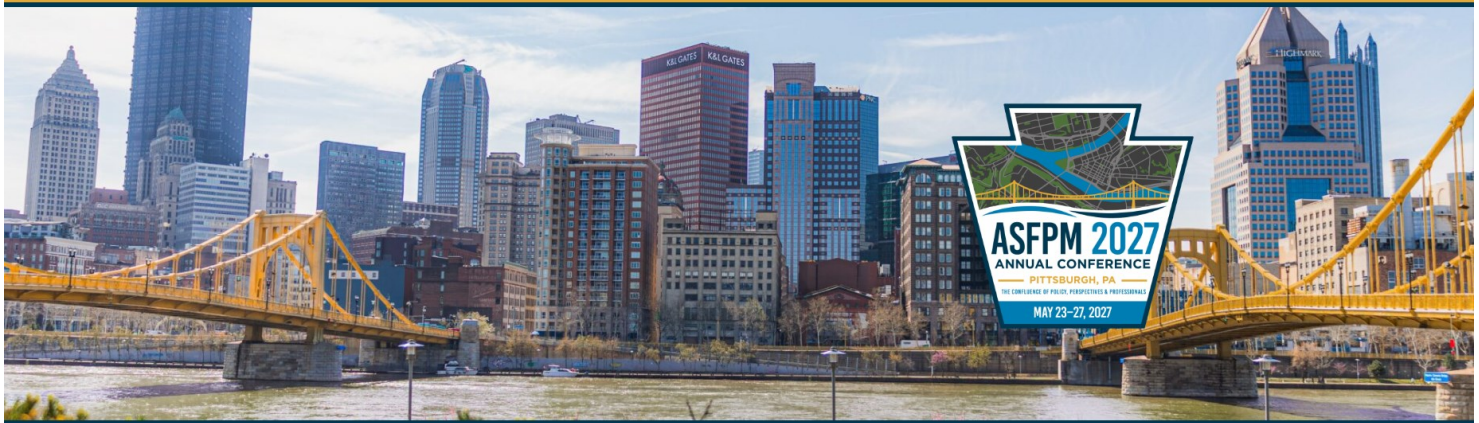
dhonor@stcharlesgov.net

CECs: Anticipate 3.5 CECs through ASFPM

Register: [Register Now](#)



2027 ASFPM Conference



May 23 – 27, 2027 | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Join us in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the ASFPM 2027
Annual Conference! Taking place May 23-27, 2027.

The Confluence of Policy, Perspectives & Professionals

Set in the city where three rivers meet, ASFPM 2027 will bring together floodplain management professionals from across the country to exchange ideas, build connections, and advance solutions that strengthen community resilience.



State, Tribe, and Territory (STT) Information Agreement

Effective October 1, 2025, NFIP ISAAs will no longer be processed. Instead, we will transition to sharing NFIP data with states utilizing FEMA's new State, Tribe, and Territory (STT) Information Agreement. A STT agreement, that includes National Flood Insurance Program data, will allow states to share NFIP information.

Existing ISAAs will be honored until their expiration but they cannot be updated or changed. Community requests that are not covered by an existing NFIP ISAA are being referred to the NFIP state coordinator, state hazard mitigation officer or other appropriate state POCs. With an approved STT in place, the state will be the primary point of contact for new NFIP data requests.





LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

If you or someone you know would like to receive future copies of this newsletter please contact our office:

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With Thanksgiving being just around the corner, we would like to say...

We hope you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday!!

From: Pam, Tatanisha, Angela and Michelle!