

# FEMA Awards City of Lakeland More Than \$3.6 Million for Hurricane Irma Expenses

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ORLANDO, Fla. – FEMA has approved \$3,654,088 for the State of Florida to help the City of Lakeland electric department defray the costs of repairs associated with Hurricane Irma.

FEMA funds will be used to reimburse the City of Lakeland for repairs conducted after the September 2017 storm. The City of Lakeland and contract workers made permanent repairs to 23,000 linear feet of copper and aluminum primary, secondary and service conductors. During the storm 138 wood, concrete and fiberglass poles snapped and 117 transformers exploded due to power surges created by hurricane force winds and downed power lines.

Funding for this Public Assistance (PA) project is authorized under Sections 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Act for Florida to cover Hurricane Irma-related expenses, reimbursing eligible applicants for the cost of debris removal; life-saving emergency protective measures; and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged facilities like buildings, roads and utilities.

FEMA's Public Assistance grant program is an essential source of funding for communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency. The Florida Division of Emergency Management works with FEMA during all phases of the PA program and conducts final reviews of FEMA-approved projects.

Applicants work directly with FEMA to develop project worksheets and scopes of work. Following approvals by FEMA and FDEM, FEMA obligates funding for the project.



**FEMA**

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FEMA's Public Assistance program provides grants to state, tribal, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profit organizations including some houses of worship, so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

The federal share for Public Assistance projects is not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost. The state determines how the non-federal share of the cost of a project (up to 25 percent) is split with the sub-recipients like local and county governments.

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FEMA's mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

