



# FEMA

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

## Program Administration by States (PAS) Pilot – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is PAS?

PAS is a program that was established as a result of Superstorm Sandy to create a more streamlined grant approval process allowing communities to get the hazard mitigation funds they need faster. PAS was authorized by the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. Under PAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can delegate one or a combination of the following activities and subtasks to States and federally-recognized tribes:

- Application review
- Benefit-Cost Analysis review
- Grant management
- Fiscal management
- Mitigation planning

### What are the benefits of PAS?

PAS allows FEMA to delegate its traditional grant management responsibilities to States and federally-recognized tribes. These responsibilities include (but are not limited to) reviewing project applications, completing Benefit-Cost Analyses for projects, approving scope-of-work modifications, and moving funds between applicable projects. This gives States and federally-recognized tribes increased control and oversight over their hazard mitigation projects and shortens the previous 24-month grant obligation timeline. States and federally-recognized tribes can also approve local or Tribal hazard Mitigation Plans under PAS.

### How do States or federally recognized tribes join?

States and federally recognized tribes submit a request letter to their FEMA Regional Office to indicate their interest. If the Region determines that the State or federally-recognized tribes meets the criteria for participating in PAS, the Region will contact the State or federally-recognized tribe within 30 days and collaborate on drafting an operational agreement.

### What are the criteria for States or federally-recognized tribes to join?

The State or federally-recognized tribes must have:

- A current FEMA-approved mitigation plan
- Experience in the requested responsibilities
- A demonstrated commitment to hazard mitigation

## What are States' or federally recognized-tribes' responsibilities under PAS?

The State or federally-recognized tribe can choose the activities it is comfortable undertaking and ask FEMA to delegate those responsibilities to them. The flexibility of the program enables States and federally-recognized tribes to build a different PAS program after each Presidential major disaster declaration. After such a declaration a new operational agreement is developed with the FEMA Region, and the State or federally-recognized tribe can specify what it is comfortable undertaking.

## What is FEMA's role in PAS?

FEMA will work with the State or federally-recognized tribe to develop an operational agreement to specify their responsibilities. Once a State or federally-recognized tribe is participating in PAS, FEMA will monitor the participants' actions and provide tools and training as needed to improve the State's or federally-recognized tribe's capabilities. The more activities the State or federally-recognized tribe has been delegated, the greater FEMA's monitoring responsibilities will be. FEMA will also ensure that the State or federally-recognized tribe complies with all program requirements. FEMA will still be responsible for conducting all environmental and historic preservation reviews as needed.

## Are there any examples of States or federally-recognized tribes successfully implementing PAS?

The State of Florida has successfully used PAS. Florida started with two Presidential major disaster declarations and developed two operational agreements with FEMA based on those declarations. Based on their success with PAS, Florida has since expanded to four operational agreements. By utilizing PAS the State has shortened the 24-month grant obligation timeline and has delivered money to its communities faster.

## Who should States and federally-recognized tribes contact for more information?

States and federally-recognized tribes should contact their FEMA Regional Office or visit <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-sandy-recovery-improvement-act>.