

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice of Availability of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Puerto Rico's School Infrastructure Recovery and Resiliency FEMA-DR-4339-PR and FEMA-DR-4473-PR

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to Puerto Rico, Applicant, for the repair of damaged schools caused by Hurricane Maria and the increased seismic activity occurring in 2019 and 2020. A disaster declaration was issued for Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017, encompassing the entirety of Puerto Rico. After the signing of the disaster declaration in response to the hurricane, Puerto Rico experienced increased seismic activity leading to an additional disaster declaration signed on January 16, 2020 applied to designated Municipalities within Puerto Rico. The declaration authorized federal public assistance to affected communities and certain non-profit organizations per FEMA, and in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5121-5207), *as amended*; the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013; and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123). The Puerto Rico Central Office of Recovery, Reconstruction and Resiliency (COR3) is the Applicant for FEMA grants and multiple agencies may be subrecipients for specific projects.

The purpose of the programmatic actions considered in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) is to restore the capacity of Puerto Rico's PreK-12 schools to meet the post-disaster needs of the subrecipients and increase the resiliency of their facilities in response to future disaster events. The need for actions is to equitably re-establish and restore disaster-impacted schools to current codes and standards, reopen facilities closed as a result of disaster events, and provide hazard mitigation to increase resiliency in response to future disaster events.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this PEA has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical, biological, cultural, and human environments. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the PEA. The School Infrastructure PEA is available for agency and public review and comment for a period of thirty (30) days. The public information process includes a public notice in both English and Spanish with information about the proposed action in the *Primera Hora* and *El Nuevo Dia* newspapers. The publicly available materials will also include a Spanish translation of the PEA. The School Infrastructure PEA is available for download at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository> and <https://recovery.pr/es/document-library>.

A hard copy of the PEA will be available for review at the following Department of Education Regional Offices:

- *Central Office, 150 Federico Costa Street, Urb. Tres Monjitas, Bo, Hato Rey, San Juan, PR 00917*

- *Arecibo Regional Office, Government Center, 372 Jose A Cedeño Ave., Ste. 210B, Arecibo, PR 00612*
- *Bayamon Regional Office, PR-2 Km 15.0, Bo. Hato Tejas 1, Bayamón, PR 00956*
- *Caguas Regional Office, Government Center, Doctor Goyco St., Acosta corner, Bo. Pueblo, Caguas, PR 00726*
- *Humacao Regional Office, Government Center, Tower 2, Nicanor Vazquez Torres Avenue, Humacao, PR 00791*
- *Mayaguez Regional Office, Government Center, 3rd Floor, Office 301, Mayagüez, PR 00681*
- *Ponce Regional Office, Government Center, 4820 Las Americas Avenue, Ponce, PR 00732-7477*
- *San Juan Regional Office, 602 Barbosa Ave., Guayama Street corner, Barreras Building, 3rd Floor, San Juan, PR 00917*

A hard copy of the PEA will also be available for review at the following locations:

### **Municipalities**

- *Municipality of Aibonito, Planning and Permits Office, Degetau St. Annex #56, Aibonito, PR*
- *Municipality of Caguas, William Miranda Marín City Hall, Environmental Affairs Office, Second floor, Padial St. Corner of Jose Mercado Ave., Caguas, PR*
- *Municipality of Carolina, Mayor's Office, Planning Department, 2nd Floor, Manuel Fernandez Juncos Ave., Carolina, PR*
- *Municipality of Luquillo, Mayor's Office, 14 de Julio St. #154, Luquillo, PR*
- *Municipality of Toa Baja, Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, Llanero Sports Complex, José de Diego St., Levittown, Toa Baja, PR*
- *Municipality of Vieques, Mayor's Office, Lebrum St. #449, Vieques, PR*

### **State Agencies**

- *Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) (Headquarters), Former Asilo de Beneficencia, 1st Floor, Beneficencia St. Corner of Dr. Francisco Rufino, San Juan, PR*
- *Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) at Mayaguez, Urrutia Residence, West #60 Ramos Antonini, St. Corner of Pilar Defilló, Mayaguez, PR*
- *Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (ICP) at Ponce, Puerto Rican Music Museum, Serrallés Residence #42, Isabel St. 50, Ponce, PR*

This PEA reflects the evaluation and assessment of the federal government, the decision maker for the federal action; however, FEMA will take into consideration any substantive comments received during the public review period to inform the final decision regarding grant approval and project implementation. The public is invited to submit written comments by emailing [FEMA-EHP-DR4339@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-EHP-DR4339@fema.dhs.gov) or via mail to:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 2  
Puerto Rico Caribbean Area Office – Joint Recovery Office  
50 State Road num. 165, Suite 3  
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8024  
Attn: Puerto Rico School Infrastructure PEA Public Comments

If FEMA receives no substantive comments from the public and/or agency reviewers, FEMA will adopt the PEA as final and will issue a FONSI. If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will evaluate and address comments as part of the FONSI documentation or in a Final PEA.