

Inter-agency Technical Assistance Toolkit for School Infrastructure in Puerto Rico



January 2022

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Introduction

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to supporting a full recovery in Puerto Rico grounded in dignity, equity, and respect. That is why the White House convened a [Working Group on Puerto Rico](#) to provide Puerto Rico the resources and technical assistance it needs to recover and prosper. Education is a critical component of full recovery, and access to safe, healthy, and up-to-date school facilities is a first step in providing all students in Puerto Rico with the high-quality education they deserve.

School infrastructure in Puerto Rico is at a turning point. After multiple natural disasters, Puerto Rico has access to extensive recovery resources, including more than \$2 billion in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance for school infrastructure related to recovery. Additionally, billions more in federal education and COVID-19 relief funds are available to assist with addressing and recovering from COVID-19. This can also include, depending on the program, upgrades to school infrastructure. Puerto Rican officials have the chance to create transformational change through these investments in school buildings that will serve students and communities for generations to come.

To support this unique opportunity, federal agencies are offering this toolkit of resources related to infrastructure development. The resources highlighted here are those likely to be most relevant to the monumental work Puerto Rico is undertaking. This document is non-exhaustive, and agencies can offer additional tools or information on specific topics upon request. This document is also intended to be a living document, and agencies will update it as needed. This document originally published in January 2022.

This toolkit is broken into sections based on phases of the work, from planning and design to project review. It also includes key points of contact and additional funding opportunities.

I. Key Tools and Resources

A. Planning and Design

Effective planning and design are the critical first steps in any project. Given the historic opportunity to set schools and communities on a path to greater educational stability, careful attention to planning and design is especially important. Below are resources that can help:

i. General Planning Resources

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Healthy School Environments:** This website presents information on key topics about establishing and enhancing healthy school environments at <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/ambientes-escolares-sanos>.
- **EPA Sensible Steps to Healthy School Environments:** These resources highlight cost-effective, affordable ways to protect the health of students and staff and include a Healthy Schools Checklist. See https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-06/documents/sensible_steps_final_may2017_web.pdf and <https://www.epa.gov/schools/healthy-schools-checklist>.
- **FEMA Local and State Mitigation Plan Review Guides:** These resources support federal and state leaders in consistent review of state and local risk mitigation plans at <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema-mitigation-plan-review-guide-spanish-11-05-2012.pdf> and <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/hazard-mitigation-planning/create-hazard-plan>.
- **FEMA Public Assistance:** FEMA's Cost Estimating Format (CEF) is a uniform methodology to determine eligible permanent work costs for large construction projects, including those related to schools at <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/cost-estimating-tool>. The CEF provides a more reliable estimate for improved decision making.
- **FEMA Emergency Management Institute:** The Institute has multiple courses related to multi-hazard emergency planning and safety for schools. For more information, see the training center website at <https://training.fema.gov/programs/emischool/emischool.aspx/>.

ii. Building Code Resources

- **FEMA Release on New Building Codes to Support Puerto Rico in Building Back Stronger:** This press release describes the importance of Puerto Rico's 2018 updates to its building codes and notes assistance FEMA provided through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. See <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210318/new-building-codes-support-puerto-rico-building-back-stronger>. For Puerto Rico's building code implementation information, see <https://jp.pr.gov/>.
- **Department of Energy (DOE) Building Energy Codes Program Technical Assistance:** The Building Energy Codes Program (BECP) offers a comprehensive collection of information, resources, and technical assistance designed to answer questions and address issues related to energy codes. This includes frequently asked questions, publications, compliance software and tools, and training modules based on best practices. BECP's team of building energy codes experts is also available to answer specific questions submitted through the web-based [help desk](#). See <https://www.energycodes.gov/technical-assistance>.

- **Building America Solution Center Code Briefs:** The intent of Building America’s Code Compliance Briefs is to provide code-related information about Building America’s research, best practices, and new innovations to help ensure that the measures will be accepted as being in compliance with the code. See <https://basc.pnnl.gov/code-compliance>.

iii. Resilience and Safety

a. Natural Disasters

- **FEMA P-1000 Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety:** This training provides guidance on school operations (i.e., what to do before, during, and after an event) and on the physical protection of school facilities (i.e., what can be done to the structure and facility to improve safety). The training also includes some discussion of the FEMA P-1000 supplements, which provide guidance specific to earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and tsunamis at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/earthquake/training/fema-p-1000>.
- **FEMA 424 Design Guide for Improving School Safety in Earthquakes, Floods, and High Winds:** This publication provides design guidance for the protection of school buildings and their occupants against natural hazards, and concentrates on K-12 schools. The focus is on the design of new schools, but the repair, renovation, and extension of existing schools is also addressed. See <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/plan/prevent/rms/424/fema424.pdf>.
- **FEMA 395 Incremental Seismic Rehabilitation of School Buildings (K-12): Providing Protection to People and Buildings):** This manual provides school administrators with the information necessary to assess the seismic vulnerability of their buildings and to implement a program of incremental seismic rehabilitation for those buildings. See <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/plan/prevent/rms/395/fema395.pdf>.
- **FEMA P-154 Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards: A Handbook:** This handbook supports identifying, inventorying, and screening buildings that are potentially hazardous. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_earthquakes_rapid-visual-screening-of-buildings-for-potential-seismic-hazards-a-handbook-third-edition-fema-p-154.pdf.
- **FEMA P-2018 Seismic Evaluation of Older Concrete Buildings for Collapse Potential:** This report provides a simplified methodology for evaluating collapse resistance for concrete buildings. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_seismic-eval-older-concrete-buildings_p-2018.pdf.
- **FEMA E-74 Reducing the Risks of Nonstructural Earthquake Damage - A Practical Guide:** This guide for a nontechnical audience (e.g., building owners, facility managers, maintenance personnel, agency department heads, etc.) explains the sources of earthquake damage that can occur in nonstructural components and provides information on effective methods for reducing associated risk. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_earthquakes_reducing-the-risks-of-nonstructural-earthquake-damage-a-practical-guide-fema-e-74.pdf.
- **Puerto Rico Special Wind Region “microzone” data:** The Applied Technology Council, a nonprofit research organization, offers hazard information by location. For information on Puerto Rico, see <https://hazards.atcouncil.org/#/wind?lat=18.220833&lng=-66.590149&address=Puerto%20Rico>.

- **FEMA P-2062 Guidelines for Wind Vulnerability Assessments of Existing Critical Facilities:** This manual provides design professionals with guidelines for assessing the vulnerability of critical facilities to wind pressure, wind-borne debris, and wind-driven rain. See <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/guidelines-wind-vulnerability.pdf>.
- **FEMA P-361 Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms:** This guidance provides updated criteria for safe rooms to provide protection from wind and wind-borne debris for occupants at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_safe-rooms-for-tornadoes-and-hurricanes_p-361.pdf. For additional related resources, see <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/safe-rooms/resources>.
- **FEMA P-754 Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Handbook for Public Facilities:** This handbook is intended to assist facility owners affected by wildfire disasters by suggesting mitigation measures that can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of damaged facilities to future wildfire incidents. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_p_754.pdf.

b. Lead and Drinking Water

- **EPA 3Ts (Training, Testing, and Taking Action) for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water:** EPA provides information and recommendations to prepare schools, child care facilities, and states/territories to build programs to reduce lead levels in drinking water. See <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water>; <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/el-plomo-del-agua-potable-en-las-escuelas-y-los-centros-de-cuidado-infantil>, including the document “3 pasos clave para reducir el nivel de plomo en el agua potable en escuelas e instalaciones de cuidado infantil” at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/epa-3ts-guidance-document-spanish_0.pdf, 3Ts Parent Template Letter <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water#mod1>, a Sampling Data eTracker for Schools at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/3ts-reducing-lead-drinking-water#school>, and other interactive tools.
- **Puerto Rico Lead Permitting Process Flowchart:** This resource provides information about the permit and certification requirements and costs for individuals wanting to conduct lead remediation work. See <https://www.drna.pr.gov/documentos/71082/>.
- **EPA Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Child Care Facilities During and After Extended Closures and Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Schools During and After Extended Closures:** These factsheets provide guidance on maintaining drinking water quality during extended closures and recommends start-up procedures when reopening to ensure that drinking water is safe for consumption. See <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/audience-factsheets>.
- **EPA WaterSense at Work: Best Management Practices for Educational Facilities:** This resource promotes water-efficient techniques that can be applied across a wide range of facilities with varying water needs. See <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-01/documents/ws-commercial-factsheet-educational-facilities.pdf>.

c. Asbestos

- **Puerto Rico Asbestos permitting process flowchart:** This visual resource in Spanish provides information about the permit and certification requirements and costs for individuals wanting to

conduct asbestos remediation work. See <https://www.drna.pr.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Asbestos-Permit-Request-Process-Map-01.17.2020.pdf>.

d. Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and COVID-19

- **EPA Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools:** The Action Kit provides best practices, industry guidelines, sample policies, and a sample indoor air quality management plan. See <https://espanol.epa.gov/cai/calidad-del-aire-interior-en-las-escuelas>.
- **EPA School Health and Indoor Environments Leadership Development (SHIELD) Network:** These on-demand trainings include multiple 1-hour technical webinars designed to provide school district staff the knowledge and tools they need to execute an indoor air quality management program. See <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/indoor-air-quality-knowledge-action-professional-training-webinar-series>.
- **EPA Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond:** Resources and guidance from federal agencies provide information about indoor air considerations for schools during COVID-19 and for school reopening, as well as IAQ Tools for Schools for improving healthy learning environments beyond the pandemic. See <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/healthy-indoor-environments-schools-during-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond>.
- **U.S. Department of Education (ED) Fact Sheet on Improving Ventilation in Schools, Colleges, and Universities to Prevent COVID-19:** This resource clarifies how COVID-19 education relief funds can be used to improve indoor air quality. See <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/improving-ventilation>.
- **American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP-ESSER) Implementation Technical Assistance.** On September 2, 2021, ED hosted a webinar: Using COVID-Relief Funds for Facility Upgrades, Renovations, and Construction. In addition to ED guidance on uses of funds for construction, renovations, and upgrades, the webinar included speakers and resources related to indoor air quality from the U.S. EPA, the U.S. DOE, the Maine Department of Education, and Salt Lake City School District. The slides are available at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/09/Using-COVID-Relief-Funds-for-Facility-Upgrades-Renovations-and-Construction-09.02.21.pdf>, and the recording is at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/09/Recording-of-Construction-Webinar-2.mp3>.

iv. Energy Efficiency and Power

- **ASHRAE Advanced Energy Design Guides for K-12 Schools:** This guide for contractors and designers describes how to achieve deep energy savings for new construction and major renovations. See <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/aedgs/zero-energy-aedg-free-download>.
- **DOE Efficient and Healthy Schools website:** This online hub provides a comprehensive list of DOE's resources for planning and designing, including on energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy integration in schools. See <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/efficient-and-healthy-schools> and <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/energy-efficiency-retrofits-and-renewable-energy-integration-schools>.
- **EPA ENERGY STAR in K-12 Schools:** This document supports fair assessment of the energy performance of buildings or campuses used as a school for kindergarten through 12th grade

students. See <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy-star-score-k-12-schools>.

- **FEMA P-1019 Emergency Power Systems for Critical Facilities: A Best Practices Approach to Improving Reliability:** This resource includes recommendations for planning for emergency power in the event of a disaster to assist critical facilities in remaining operational. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_p-1019_final_02-06-2015.pdf.

v. Emergency Preparedness and Planning

- **FEMA Planning Guides:** These resources provide support for communities planning for emergency operations at a community level.
 - For the full set of guides, see <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan>.
 - FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans describes the steps to produce an emergency operations plan, possible plan structures, and components of a plan. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_cpg-101-v3-developing-maintaining-eops.pdf.
 - FEMA CPG 201 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) Guide can be used to assess the jurisdiction's vulnerabilities as a planning guide for determining planning priorities. See <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/threat-hazard-identification-risk-assessment-stakeholder-preparedness-review-guide.pdf>.
- **U.S. Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Justice Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans** outlines steps schools can take in partnership with local government and community partners to create an emergency operations plan. See https://rems.ed.gov/docs/School_Guide_508C.pdf.
- **The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center** (supported by the U.S. Department of Education) assists K-12 schools and school districts and postsecondary institutions with building preparedness capacity. General information is available at <https://rems.ed.gov/AboutUs>. A list of resources in Spanish is available at https://rems.ed.gov/docs/SpanishLanguageResourceList_English_508C.pdf.

B. Workforce Readiness

Successfully improving school infrastructure requires a skilled workforce to carry out construction, renovation, repair, and ongoing maintenance work. Below are tools to assist with preparing the workforce to take on these critical challenges.

i. EPA

- **Building and Grounds Maintenance Checklist:** This checklist is a tool for buildings and grounds maintenance staff to promote indoor air quality and strong maintenance practices. See <https://espanol.epa.gov/cai/lista-de-verificacion-de-mantenimiento-del-edificio>.
- **Waste Management Checklist:** This checklist is a tool for schools to promote waste management in a way that supports indoor air quality. See

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-11/documents/wastemgmtchklist.pdf> and <https://espanol.epa.gov/cai/lista-de-verificacion-de-manejo-de-desechos>

- **Air Quality Flag Program:** The color of the flag matches EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI): green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. On unhealthy days, people can use this information to adjust physical activities to help reduce exposure to air pollution, while still keeping people active. See <https://www.airnow.gov/publications/air-quality-flag-program-en-espanol/school-poster-in-spanish/>.
- **Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Pollution Exposure at Schools:** This publication helps school communities identify strategies for reducing traffic-related pollution exposure at schools. See <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/las-mejores-practicas-para-reducir-la-exposicion-la-contaminacion-cerca-de-las-carreteras-en>.
- **Locate Certified Renovation and Lead Dust Sampling Technician Firms:** This locator identifies lead renovation, repair, and painting (RRP) firms certified by EPA. Additional requirements from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources still apply. For your convenience, EPA publishes this list of certified renovation firms that meet EPA's standards to perform renovation activities involving lead-based paint. The list is an information resource only. EPA does not endorse any of the firms included on this list nor provide any warranty about their performance. Consumers are advised to request bids and conduct reference checks before engaging any firm/contractor. See <https://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearch>.
- **Locate Lead Certified Inspection, Risk Assessment, and Abatement Firms:** This locator only identifies certified firms in jurisdictions where EPA administers the lead-based paint training and certification program and certain EPA-authorized jurisdictions, such as Puerto Rico. For your convenience, EPA publishes this list of certified firms that meet EPA's standards to perform activities involving lead-based paint. The list is an information resource only. EPA does not endorse any of the firms included on this list nor provide any warranty about their performance. Consumers are advised to request bids and conduct reference checks before engaging any firm/contractor. See <https://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/pub/index.cfm?do=main.firmSearchAbatement>.
- **Locate Certified Training Providers and Consultants in Management of Asbestos-containing Materials:** This website includes a list of training providers and consultants in management of asbestos-containing materials that have been certified by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. See <https://www.drna.pr.gov/acai/asbesto/>.
- **The ABC's of Asbestos in Schools.** This guidance helps local education agencies achieve compliance with regulations governing asbestos-containing materials in schools. See <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/el-abc-del-asbesto-en-las-escuelas>.
- **Safer Choice** is an EPA pollution prevention (P2) program, which includes practices that reduce, eliminate, or prevent pollution at its source, such as using safer ingredients in products. It is a voluntary program that works to advance the mission of EPA to protect human health and the environment. See <https://espanol.epa.gov/saferchoice/busca-la-etiqueta-safer-choice-de-epa-para-escuelas>.
- **Bed Bugs and Schools.** This resource provides steps for successfully dealing with bed bugs in schools. See <https://espanol.epa.gov/control-de-plagas/pasos-para-atender-exitosamente-el-problema-de-las-chinches-en-las-escuelas> and EPA Bed Bug Guidance for Parents at https://espanol.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-09/documents/bed-bugs-for-parents.pdf?VersionId=iOQ4KJQY_aFI9TUvnyUSr2WmFD7n85fy –.

- **School tip of the day:** EPA provides actions students, community members, and school staff can take to improve the environment at <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/consejo-del-dia-en-la-escuela>.

ii. Department of Labor (DOL)

- **American Jobs Centers**, also known as One-Stops, provide a vast network to address the human resource and employment needs of both jobseekers and business in every community. American Job Centers offer a continuum of services throughout the cycle of recruiting, training, retaining, and transitioning workers. For more information, please visit Puerto Rico's Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and the CareerOne-Stop websites at: (English): <https://ddec.pr.gov/en/workforce-development-program/> (Spanish): <https://www.ddec.pr.gov/programa-de-desarrollo-laboral-pdl>

(English): <https://www.careeronestop.org/default.aspx>

(Spanish): <https://www.careeronestop.org/default.aspx?lang=es>

- **Job Corps** is the largest nationwide residential career training program that helps eligible young people ages 16 through 24 complete their high school education, trains them for meaningful careers, and assists them with obtaining employment, including in construction and maintenance fields. Puerto Rico has three Job Corps Centers: the Ramey Job Corps Center, the Arecibo Job Corps Center and the Barranquitas Job Corps Center (closed due to Hurricane Maria). For more information, please visit: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/jobcorps> <https://ramey.jobcorps.gov/> (English) <https://ramey.jobcorps.gov/es> (Spanish) <https://arecibo.jobcorps.gov/> (English) <https://arecibo.jobcorps.gov/es> (Spanish) <https://barranquitas.jobcorps.gov/> (English) <https://barranquitas.jobcorps.gov/es> (Spanish)
- **Registered Apprenticeship** is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, classroom instruction, and a nationally recognized, portable credential, including in construction fields. Employers can choose to register their programs with the U.S. DOL to show prospective job seekers that their apprenticeship program meets national quality standards. For more information, please visit: <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/>.
 - As part of the Apprenticeship.gov suite, a Partner Finder tool is available to assist in finding Registered Apprenticeship system sponsors and other partners by location at: <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/partner-finder>.
- **SkillsCommons** is a repository of training resources, which was developed by DOL's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program grantees, available to training providers. The following links are training resources related to construction:
 - Drywall and Painting Curriculum (Spanish version is included): <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/15340>
 - Construction Trades Program: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/15338>
 - Leadership in the Trades: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/15339>
 - Construction Technology 101: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/904>

- Construction Technology II 102: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/905>
- Revised Construction Core Course: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/12396>
- Construction Equipment, Methods, and Planning: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/1602>
- Construction Materials and Systems: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/1600>
- Construction Technology and Carpentry Apprenticeship Programs and Syllabi: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/2141>

- **TAACCCT Projects in Puerto Rico** (some in Spanish): These grants were made to colleges and post-secondary institutions across the United States to develop new programs and curricula to meet workforce development needs for local employers. These were the investments in Puerto Rico with open source links to the programs and curricula developed in Puerto Rico in partnership with local employers:
 - Prompt Employment through Colegio Universitario de San Juan’s (CUSJ’s) Accelerated Blended Certificate Programs: A TAACCCT Round III Project - Learning Resource Collection: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/5885>
 - CUSJ Accelerated, Blended-Online, 2+2 TAACCCT Training Project - Learning Resource Collection: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/448>
 - New Horizons (Universidad Metropolitana, Puerto Rico) - Learning Resource Collection: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/1482>

C. Contracting and Procurement

Contracting and procurement are essential parts of any infrastructure project. The resources below highlight key considerations and resources to promote successful implementation.

i. FEMA

- **Reference for managing procurement under grant assistance to rebuild or retrofit school buildings:** This online toolkit for managing procurements under grants includes links to training opportunities. See <https://www.fema.gov/grants/procurement>.

ii. DOE

- **Financing Energy Upgrades for K-12 School Districts:** This guide explicitly focuses on comprehensive energy upgrades, those that involve multiple measures and are targeted toward achieving significant and persistent energy savings. See <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/03/f30/financing-energy-upgrades-guide.pdf>.
- **Current Practices in Efficiency Financing: An Overview for State and Local Governments:** This guide describes customer-facing financing products—products offered by a lender directly to a borrower—used to pay for energy efficiency. See <https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/lbnl-1006406.pdf>.
- **Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC): A Primer for K-12 Schools:** This primer explains how schools can use ESPC to save money by improving building energy efficiency and reducing operating costs while increasing occupant comfort and productivity. See <https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/K-12-ESPC-Primer.pdf>.

D. Project Review

Strong project review helps ensure successful work. The resources below can guide this important step.

i. FEMA

- **FEMA Public Assistance Program Policy Guidance and Fact Sheets:** This hub provides key program information for the FEMA Public Assistance Program, which pays for repairs, rebuilding, and hazard mitigation measures for eligible damaged school buildings. See <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/policy-guidance-fact-sheets>.
- **Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (Section 428), Guide for Permanent Work FEMA-4339-DR-PR:** These resources provide guidance specific to Puerto Rico regarding use of FEMA Public Assistance alternative procedures. Alternative procedures allow for making awards for permanent work projects on the basis of fixed estimates to provide financial incentives and disincentives for the timely or cost-effective completion of work. Alternative procedures also promote more holistic, coordinated, sector-based recovery solutions. See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_hurricane-harvey-irma-maria-guidance.zip
- **FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs guidance:** This hub includes guidance on FEMA mitigation grant programs for eligible activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. See <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>.

II. Points of Contact at Federal Agencies and Technical Assistance Opportunities

FEMA

- Danna Planas Ocasio, Public Assistance Division Director, Puerto Rico Joint Recovery Office, FEMA Region 2, planasocasio.danna@fema.dhs.gov
- Andrés García Martínó, Joint Recovery Office Deputy Director, Puerto Rico Joint Recovery Office, FEMA Region 2, andres.garciamartino@fema.dhs.gov
- José Baquero, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator and Director Puerto Rico Joint Recovery Office, FEMA Region 2, jose.baquero@fema.dhs.gov
- Region 2 Grants and Mitigation Divisions provide on-site and virtual grants management training or technical assistance on the grants management life cycle upon request. This training covers the administrative, program, and financial requirements for an award.
 - Grants Management Training and Technical Assistance points of contact (POCs):
 - Tania Hedlund, Branch Chief, Grants Division, FEMA Region 2, tania.hedlund@fema.dhs.gov or
 - Dale McShine, Director, Grants Division, FEMA Region 2, dale.mcshine@fema.dhs.gov
- Non-Disaster Assistance - Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Michael Moriarty, Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 2, michael.moriarty@fema.dhs.gov
- Procurement Disaster Assistance Training (PDAT) POCs:
 - Nielsen Leon, Grants Program Division, Office of Resilience, nielsen.leon@fema.dhs.gov;
 - Manuel Guzman Gonzalez, Regional and Field Operations Legal Division (Puerto Rico Joint Field Office), Office of Chief Counsel, manuel.guzmangonzalez@fema.dhs.gov

ED

- Chris Soto, Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Chris.Soto@ed.gov
- Meredith Miller, Director, Disaster Recovery Unit, Meredith.Miller@ed.gov
- Molly Budman, Team Lead, Disaster Recovery Unit, Molly.Budman@ed.gov

EPA

- EPA Caribbean Healthy Buildings Collaborative (expert technical assistance on mold/lead/asbestos remediation):
 - Ameesha Mehta-Sampath, Strategic Integration Team Leader, Strategic Programs Office, U.S. EPA Region 2, Mehta-Sampath.Ameesha@epa.gov
 - Paul Fericelli, Environmental Engineer, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Fericelli.Paul@epa.gov
- Norman Rodriguez, EPA Sustainability Advisor in Puerto Rico, Rodriguez.Norman@epa.gov
- Carmen Torrent, Hispanic Outreach Lead for Indoor Air Quality, U.S. EPA Headquarters, Torrent.Carmen@epa.gov

- For support regarding the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) Grant Programs, contact EPA Region 2:
 - Christine Ash, Chief, Drinking Water and Municipal Infrastructure Branch, ash.christine@epa.gov
 - Bruce Lin, Environmental Engineer, Drinking Water and Municipal Infrastructure Branch, lin.bruce@epa.gov
- Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) Network: PEHSUs work with health care professionals, parents, schools, community groups, federal, state, and local government agencies, and others to address children’s environmental health issues. They are jointly supported by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and EPA. See <https://www.pehsu.net/region2.html> and <https://icahn.mssm.edu/research/pehsu>.

DOE

- Elizabeth Arnold, Puerto Rico Energy Recovery Team, Elizabeth.Arnold@HQ.DOE.gov
- Sam Petty, Building Technologies Office, samuel.petty@ee.doe.gov
- Efficient and Healthy Schools campaign: K-12 schools or their school districts —and especially schools serving low-income student populations— commit to improve the health and reduce energy in their schools. In addition to receiving campaign newsletters on best practices and case studies, participating schools can engage in peer-to-peer learning, receive recognition, and contribute to the development of technical resources to HVAC solutions that improve energy performance and indoor air quality. Through the Efficient and Healthy Schools campaign, schools can also connect with other Better Buildings technology teams and campaigns. See <https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/join>.
- Better Buildings Challenge K-12 Schools: Partners commit to reduce portfolio-wide energy use by 20-25% in 10 years or less and participate in peer sharing, showcasing project highlights, and direct partner support. See <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/challenge/sector/k-12-school-districts>.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Rosanna Torres, Senior Advisor for Puerto Rico, Rosanna.TorresPizarro@hud.gov

III. Available Federal Funds

FEMA

- **General information about FEMA Public Assistance disaster grants.** For general information about FEMA Public Assistance in Spanish, see <https://www.fema.gov/es/assistance/public>.
- **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Community and Flood Mitigation Assistance:** This FEMA grant program may be used for school improvements related to resilience. For the FY 2021 notice of funding opportunity, see <https://www.fema.gov/node/fy-2021-notices-funding-opportunity-building-resilient-infrastructure-and-community-and-flood>.
- **General information about FEMA mitigation grants in Spanish:** This site provides information about multiple grant programs that support risk mitigation. See <https://www.fema.gov/es/grants/mitigation>.

EPA

- **EPA WIIN Act Grant Programs:** Three related grant programs provide funds to assist with water infrastructure. See <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-infrastructure-improvements-nation-act-wiin-act-grant-programs>. Under EPA WIIN 2107: Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water, over \$365K are allocated to Puerto Rico for voluntary testing and remediation for lead in drinking water at schools and child care programs; additional funding will be made available through FY 2026. See <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-2107-lead-testing-school-and-child-care-program-drinking-water-state-grant-program>.

ED

- **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER Funds):** Federal funds are available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. See <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/> and <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/>.
- **Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds:** Federal funds provided through GEER under the CARES Act and CRRSA Act can also support recovery in schools, including school infrastructure. See <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/>.
- **Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations:** This program assists states and school districts with expenses related to the restart of elementary and secondary schools in areas impacted by particular disasters or emergencies; Puerto Rico received funds under this program. General information is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/restart/index.html>. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are available at https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/01/Updated-RESTART-Frequently-Asked-Questions_Final_12.19.docx.