



# COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

*Citizen-Centric Report 2019*

## Public Assistance Program

The CNMI Public Assistance Office administers the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program.



# FEMA

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as Amended (Stafford Act), Title 42 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) § 5121 et seq., authorizes the President to provide Federal assistance when the magnitude of an incident or threatened incident exceeds the affected State, Territorial, Indian Tribal, and local government capabilities to respond or recover.

The purpose of the Public Assistance (PA) Grant program is to support communities' recovery from major disasters by providing them with grant assistance for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and restoring public infrastructure.

## CNMI Public Assistance Office

The CNMI Public Assistance Office is an office under the Office of the Governor. Current staff members include the Public Assistance Officer, Project Specialists and Coordinators, a Project Engineer, Technical and Financial Analysts, and a Risk Officer. All members have received and continue to receive training and support from FEMA and other partners.

**RALPH DLG. TORRES & ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
CNMI Governor & Lt. Governor

**VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ**  
Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

**PATRICK C. GUERRERO**  
Public Assistance Officer (PAO)

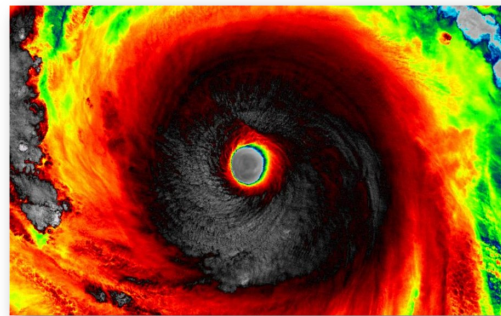
**ADMINISTRATION  
SUPPORT**

**PROJECT  
TEAM**

**FINANCE  
TEAM**

**COMPLIANCE &  
AUDIT**

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*Typhoon Soudelor, August 2015*



## Major Disasters

Since 2015, the CNMI has been declared by the President of the United States of America at the request of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a major disaster area on three separate occasions.

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### Typhoon Soudelor DR-4235

Incident Period	August 1 - 4, 2015
Major Disaster Declaration Date	August 5, 2015

### Typhoon Mangkhut EM-3402, DR-4396

Incident Period	September 10 - 11, 2018
Emergency Declaration Date	September 10, 2018
Major Disaster Declaration Date	September 29, 2018

### Super Typhoon Yutu EM-3408, DR-4404

Incident Period	October 24 - 26, 2018
Emergency Declaration Date	October 23, 2018
Major Disaster Declaration Date	October 26, 2018



Super Typhoon Yutu, October 2015

## Types of Assistance

The Public Assistance Program provides reimbursement grants for both emergency work and permanent work activities.

**Emergency work** may include such activities as debris removal, sheltering, power and water restoration, maintaining health and safety in the community, transportation for emergency relief efforts, and other measures to protect life and reduce property damage to critical facilities and infrastructure.

**Permanent work** includes recovery activities to restore public facilities and certain eligible private non-profit entities back to pre-disaster condition or to more resilient facilities through hazard mitigation actions that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property.



# Projects Awarded

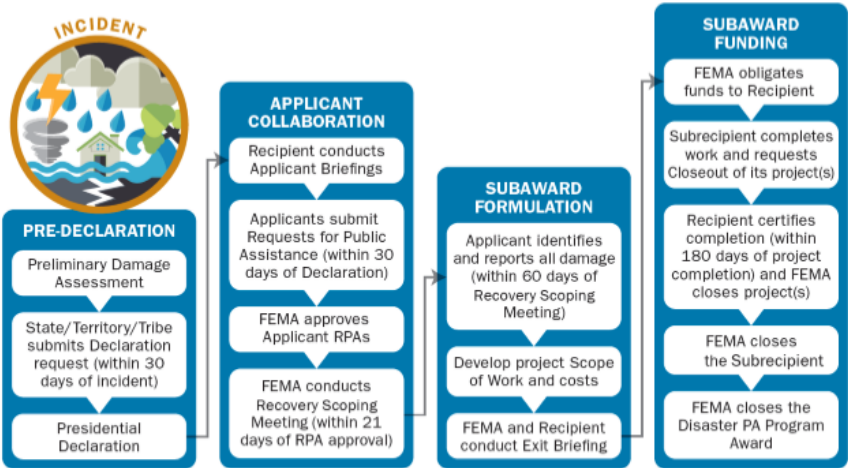
Projects	Soudelor	Mangkhut	Yutu
Project Worksheets	99	26	192
Awarded (\$)	43.6 M	1.2 M	127.2 M
Pending Est. Cost (\$)	n/a	4.8 M	160.5 M
Total Est. Cost (\$)	43.6 M	6.0 M	286.4 M
Cost Share (%)	90/10	75/25	90/10

All data and figures as of 10/30/2019

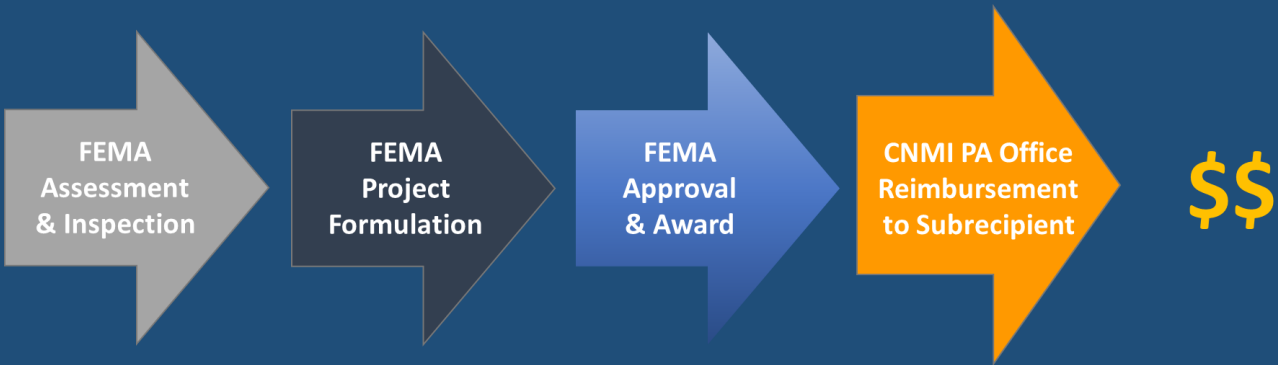
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Work Completed	% of Cost
Soudelor, DR-4235	67%
Mangkhut, DR-4396	7%
Yutu, DR-4404	35%

All data and figures as of 10/30/2019



## Public Assistance Program Reimbursement Process



## Building Partnerships

The CNMI Public Assistance Office will continue to build on its already strong relationship with FEMA and local public and private partners in disaster recovery efforts.

The key to a speedy recovery involves collaborative efforts with Federal agencies, local businesses, local public agencies, community volunteer groups, and the community as a whole.

The PA Office works to ensure it has the capacity to assist applicants in their recovery efforts by working with each applicant from site inspections and damage assessments to bidding and construction management, and eventually, reimbursement of recovery costs.



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## Reducing the Financial Impacts of Disasters

The CNMI PA Office will promote program policy training with all of its partners to ensure that in the response and recovery efforts preceding and following a disaster that associated costs are eligible for reimbursement by FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

Members of the CNMI PA Office continue to receive training through on-line courses and on-campus courses at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute in Maryland. Courses are also being scheduled to be held on-island so that partners and applicants receive the proper training and learn more about the PA Program.

Knowing the policy of the grant program will ensure that the financial impact to the local community and government in the response and recovery from a disaster is minimized. ***Program knowledge is important and we are committed to it.***



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