



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

*Citizen-Centric Report 2023*

## Our Program

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

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act 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.

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# FEMA



## Our Team

The CNMI Public Assistance Office is comprised of 30 team members that administer close to 400 projects. Our project team consists of a project manager, project engineer, program and projects specialists and site inspectors. Our finance and contracts team support the financial reporting of our grants and ensure proper spending of such grants with our Audit and Compliance manager. All are supported by our HR and Administrative managers and their staff.



# Disaster Declarations

## 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 five separate occasions.

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Event	Incident Period
Typhoon Soudelor, DR-4235-MP	August 1 - 4, 2015
Typhoon Mangkhut, DR-4396-MP	September 10 - 11, 2018
Super Typhoon Yutu, DR-4404-MP	October 24 - 26, 2018
COVID-19 Pandemic, DR-4511-MP	January 20, 2020 - May 11, 2023
Typhoon Mawar, DR-4716-MP	May 22 - 29, 2023

## 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.



Emergency power restoration efforts during Super Typhoon Yutu.

## Public Assistance Program Reimbursement Process



# Projects Awarded

Projects	Soudelor	Mangkhut	Yutu	COVID-19
Project Worksheets	99	31	213	50
Awarded (\$)	43.6 M	6.7 M	293.1 M	95.3 M
Pending Est. Cost (\$)	-	-	3.2 M	38.8 M
Total Est. Cost (\$)	43.6 M	6.7 M	296.3 M	134.1 M
Cost Share (%) Federal/Local	90/10	90/10	90/10	100/0*

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1. All data and figures as of 10/30/2023. No projects awarded for

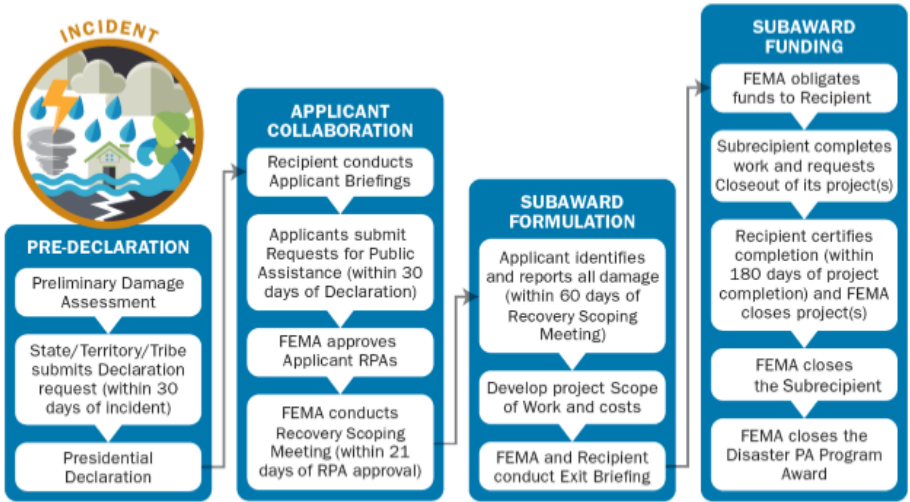


Marianas High School Career Technical Education Center to be constructed in 2024.

Northern Marianas College Student Center construction underway and partially funded by Public Assistance grant.

Permanent Work Completed	% of Cost
<b>Soudelor</b> DR-4235-MP	99%
<b>Mangkhut</b> DR-4396-MP	15%
<b>Yutu</b> DR-4404-MP	55%
<b>Mawar</b> DR-4716-MP	0%

All data and figures as of 10/30/2023.





## 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 traditionally available only through the EMI campus have also been 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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