

Dear Georgia Colleagues,

I hope you and your loved ones are managing to stay safe from the recent impacts of Hurricane Helene. The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), a public-private partnership between FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, is supporting response and recovery efforts of Georgia's arts & culture sector – and the public.

A major disaster declaration has been made on **September 30<sup>th</sup>**.

- a. **Public Assistance** is currently only available for Category A (debris removal) and Category B (emergency protective measures, including direct technical assistance) in the following counties: **Appling, Brooks, Coffee, Columbia, Jefferson, Liberty, Lowndes, Pierce, Richmond, Tattnall, and Toombs counties**. Learn more about [Public Assistance: Categories A and B](#). We will keep you informed of additional categories and counties as they get added.

**EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES** may include, but are not limited to:

1. Temporary emergency repair (blue roofs and other work) or stabilization of an eligible facility if it eliminates or lessens an immediate threat
2. Wet vacuuming, damp wiping, or vacuuming with High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) equipment of the interior space
3. Removal of contaminated gypsum board, plaster (or similar wall finishes), carpet or floor finishes, and ceilings or permanent light fixtures
4. Cleaning of contaminated heating and ventilation (including ductwork), plumbing, and air conditioning systems or other mechanical equipment
5. Removal or relocation of collections to prevent damage or loss

The Public Assistance Program Delivery Process. For more information, go to [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide Version 4 \(fema.gov\)](#).

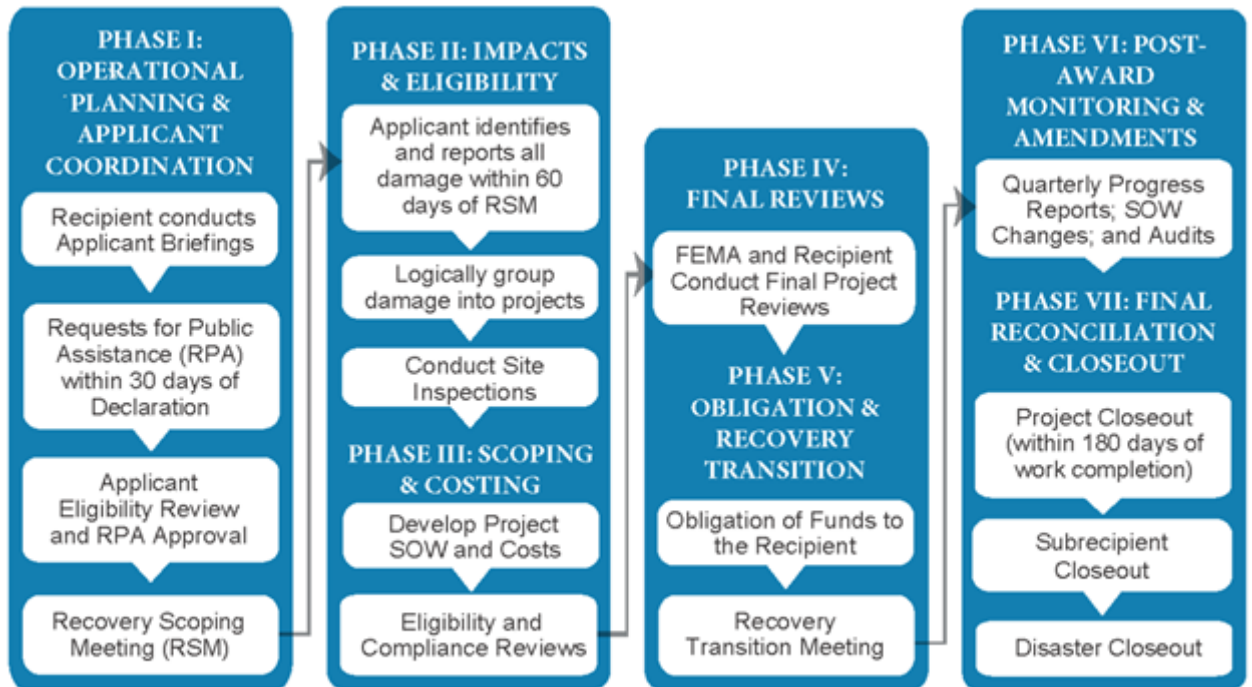


Figure 1. PA Program Delivery Process

b. **Individual Assistance** is available to individuals and households in the following counties: **Appling, Brooks, Coffee, Columbia, Jefferson, Liberty, Lowndes, Pierce, Richmond, Tattnall, and Toombs counties..** For disasters declared on or after March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, FEMA’s Individual Assistance program was expanded to include quicker access to needed funds including simplifying assistance for self-employed individuals such as self-employed artists and entrepreneurs. Learn more about this update in the [Press Release](#).

c. Information on **DR-4830** can be found at [4830 | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/4830).

Please reach out to your members and constituents to help gather reports of damage, identify any unmet needs, and share the following resources:

15. Were any cultural institutions or arts organizations affected? If so, how? Please encourage those impacted to fill out one of the following **Rapid Damage Assessment Forms**:

- [Cultural Institutions](#)
- [Arts Organizations](#)
- [Individual Artists and Performing Groups](#)

16. **Cultural institutions, arts organizations, and artists and performing groups** can call the National Heritage Responders hotline: **202.661.8068**. The National Heritage Responders, a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, are available 24/7 to provide advice and guidance.

17. **Members of the public and individual artists** who have questions about saving family heirlooms and personal collections can email the National Heritage Responders at [NHRpublichelpline@culturalheritage.org](mailto:NHRpublichelpline@culturalheritage.org).

18. **HENTF's Save Your Family Treasures** guidance is available at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/recover/save-family-treasures>. Here you can find the downloadable FEMA fact sheets "After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures" and "Salvaging Water-Damaged Family Valuables and Heirlooms," available in multiple languages.

**Please convey any questions to [fema-hentf@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-hentf@fema.dhs.gov).**