

Dear Texas colleagues,

I hope you and your loved ones are continuing to stay safe from the severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding that are continuing to occur. The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), a public-private partnership between FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, is supporting response and recovery efforts of Texas' arts & culture sector – and the public. **Please see updates below highlighted in yellow:**

A major disaster declaration has been made on **July 6, 2025 (DR-4879)**.

- a. **Public Assistance** is currently available for categories A-G in the following counties: **Edwards, Hamilton, Lampasas, Real, Reeves, Schleicher, Travis, Coke, Concho, Williamson, Burnet, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Tom Green, Kerr, Kendall, Kimble, Menard, and San Saba Counties**. Learn more about [Public Assistance Categories](#). We will keep you informed of any updates.

**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 \(fema.gov\)](#).

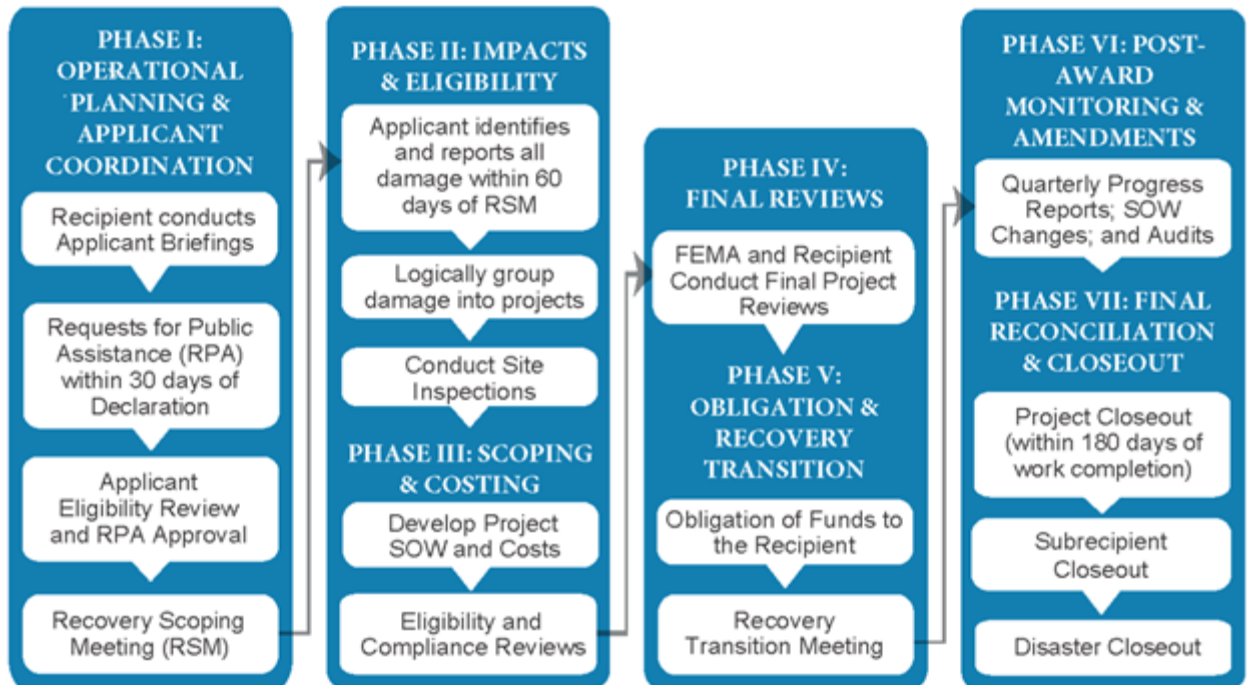


Figure 1. PA Program Delivery Process

- b. **Individual Assistance** is available to individuals and households in the following counties: **Guadalupe, Kimble, McCulloch, Menard, Kerr, Burnet, San Saba, Tom Green, Travis, and Williamson 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 [individual assistance for self-employed applicants](#). Find Disaster Recovery Center locations as they become available here: [DRC Locator](#).
- c. Information on **DR-4879** can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4879>.

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

1. **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.

2. **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).
3. **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.
4. 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** hosted by the National Coalition of Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation:
  - [Cultural Institutions](#)
  - [Arts Organizations](#)
  - [Individual Artists and Performing Groups](#)

We would appreciate it if you could copy [fema-hentf@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-hentf@fema.dhs.gov) on your distributions of this messaging to give us a better sense of the audiences that it is reaching. This will help us better tailor the messaging for future outreach. Please stay safe and I will stay in touch as disaster assistance evolves.

With thanks,  
Sarah

**Sarah Caruso**

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