



New 2015 Fiscal Year and Calendar Year Federal Thresholds for Recovery

Each year the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is adjusted based on the current economic climate. This change in the CPI, in combination with the latest census, establishes the various yearly thresholds for the various Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relief programs. Based on the adjustment to the CPI, the following FEMA thresholds have increased.

Public Assistance *(based on the federal fiscal year starting October 1, 2015)*

In FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program, new thresholds have been set for the statewide threshold, county threshold and maximum small project thresholds.

- **Statewide per capita indicator** for PA is now **\$1.41**. The 2014 statewide indicator was \$1.39. By multiplying the current state indicator (\$1.41) by the state's 2010 census (35,455,241), the new statewide threshold for Texas, to be eligible to receive a PA declaration, can be established.
 - What this means: The new state threshold to get a FEMA PA declaration is \$35,455,241.
- **Countywide per capita indicator** for PA is now **\$3.56**. The 2014 countywide indicator was \$3.50. By multiplying the current county indicator (\$3.56) by a county's 2010 census, the new threshold for a county to become eligible to be declared for a PA declaration can be established.
 - What this means: Both the statewide per capita threshold (\$35,455,241) and countywide threshold must be met for a county to receive a PA declaration.
- **Maximum amount of Small Project Grants** for PA is now **\$121,600**. The maximum threshold for 2014 was \$68,500.
 - What this means: Small project funding is based on estimated cost, if actual costs are not yet available. TDEM forwards the total federal share of the funds to the applicant as soon as practicable for small projects. Projects greater than or equal to \$121,600 will be reimbursed based on actual cost after completing the individual projects.

Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) *(based on calendar year (CY) starting January 1, 2015)*

In FEMA's FMAG Program, adjusted thresholds have been set statewide for costs associated with individual (single event) fires as well as statewide cumulative costs associated with fires for the fire season (cumulative events). In addition, FEMA has established a minimum threshold of 100 homes threatened before a FMAG request can be submitted by the State and considered for a declaration.

- **Individual Fire Cost Threshold** for the FMAG program for CY 2015 is **\$1,772,762**.
The threshold is derived by multiplying 25,145,561 (*2010 state population*) X 5% X \$1.41 (2015 statewide indicator)
 - What this means: An individual fire that meets this threshold would be eligible to be declared for an FMAG. If declared, overtime and response costs for state and local response would be covered for the individual fire.
- **Cumulative Fire Cost Threshold** for the FMAG program for CY 2015 is **\$5,318,286**.
The threshold is derived by multiplying the individual fire cost threshold (above) by 3.
 - What does this mean: Wildland fires that occur after the threshold has been met would be eligible for an FMAG declaration. If declared, overtime and response costs for state and local response would be covered for the fires.

For the purpose of capturing cumulative costs, agencies need to report response costs for all wildland fires throughout a calendar year to the Texas Forest Service (TFS). This information is used to calculate the individual and cumulative thresholds. Reporting is done through the TFS website: <http://firereporting.tamu.edu>. If accurate reporting is not completed, Texas runs a great risk of missing out on potential reimbursement.