

Localities impacted by flood events may request assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers before, during, or after the disaster. From offering advice on emergency construction methods to supplying and transporting sandbags to an affected area, the assistance USACE provides spans over a variety of principals. All of these principals, though, are authorized and defined by Public Law 84-99.

What is PL 84-99?

[Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1941 is also referred to as Public Law 84-99.](#) PL 84-99 authorizes the expense of funds to the Corps of Engineers in order to assist localities in emergency responses to flood events. Assistance under this authority is supplemental to State or local efforts and is meant to mitigate imminent threats to life and/or property rather than providing permanent solutions.

Who is eligible for PL 84-99?

Any State, territory, tribe, or local government impacted by a natural or man-made disaster is eligible for assistance. However, assistance must be supplemental to State and local efforts.

How is assistance requested?

Requests are usually made in writing by the appropriate requesting official. Under certain principals (Advance Measures or Emergency Water Supplies), which will be explained in more detail in the next section, requests must be signed by the Governor and include the identification of the problem, available State and local resources that have been committed, and verification of requesting assistance from Federal Emergency Management Agency.

If a written request is not possible in time, oral requests are sufficient. However, all oral requests must eventually be submitted in writing as well.

What are the principal assistance programs?

[Six principal assistance programs exist under PL 84-99:](#)

Disaster preparedness: USACE ensures its activities are prepared to respond to disasters and emergencies. USACE also provides technical assistance to State and local interests in training activities, specialized studies, or project developments.

Emergency operations: When USACE assistance is requested during an emergency, the Corps activates Emergency Operations Centers to take control of operations. USACE can provide technical or direct assistance. Technical assistance can include advice on emergency construction methods, inspecting structurally threatened dams, and providing historical flood information and data. Direct assistance includes issuance of supplies such as sandbags, loaning equipment, leading rescue operations and flood fight operations, and providing contingency contracting.

Rehabilitation: The Corps is authorized to repair and restore flood control projects and hurricane/shore protection projects damaged by floods or coastal storms. These repairs are implemented through the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP), which begins with the process of inspection and a status determination. For projects to be eligible for rehabilitation assistance, they must be in active status at

the time they were damaged. To remain in active status, these projects must meet a certain list of criteria set by the Corps and determined during inspection.

Emergency water supplies due to contaminated water source: Clean water supplies are transported to areas affected by contaminated water sources.

Drought Assistance: In drought-stricken areas, the Corps constructs wells and/or transports clean drinking water to affected area. The Corps is only responsible for transporting water, not purchasing it.

Advanced measures: Advanced measure projects are implemented in response to a predicted, but unusual flood. These projects must be economically justified, requested by the Governor, and only be implemented to prevent the loss of life and/or significant damage to property.

What happens when the emergency has ended?

Once the Corps has completed repair or rehabilitation efforts on a flood control work, a letter will be sent to the non-Federal sponsor with instructions and suggestions for continued maintenance and operation.