



FEMA

September 17, 2025

James Remillard
Director
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
2302 Militia Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Subject: Request for USACE Debris Removal Mission Assignment FEMA-4877-DR-MO

Dear Director Remillard:

The State of Missouri submitted a request dated August 4, 2025, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Debris Removal Mission Assignment for the City of St. Louis. FEMA and USACE have been actively engaged in supporting the State of Missouri and the City of St. Louis with recovery efforts including debris management actions. To date, this support has focused on providing substantial technical support for contract management, debris management, and recovery planning for the City.

These efforts included deployment of several FEMA and USACE teams to the City of St. Louis in the initial phases of the recovery effort to provide direct support, programmatic guidance, and targeted training. These teams contained subject matter experts in various recovery related fields, including debris management. A FEMA team was deployed to provide the City technical assistance in establishing an effective EOC that transitioned to a Recovery Center. A USACE Planning Response Team was deployed to provide direct support to aid in future debris/demolition planning, contract support, and overall cost estimations.

The State's Mission Assignment request was based upon preliminary estimates for debris removal for approximately 4,500 private residential parcels. FEMA, in coordination with SEMA and the City of St. Louis, further reviewed and verified that the scope of the mission for those parcels that would potentially qualify under Public Assistance funding is more appropriately 1,000 residences at an estimated cost of \$200 million dollars. Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) under a Mission Assignment is designed to be employed only when all other avenues have been exhausted, and the requesting jurisdiction clearly demonstrates that it lacks the resources, capabilities, or contractual mechanisms to complete the work in a timely and effective manner. To date, the State of Missouri and the City of St. Louis have been effectively leading the management and execution of the recovery efforts, including initial debris removal actions with FEMA and USACE in a supporting technical role. As the City of St. Louis and the State of Missouri continue to effectively manage and implement recovery operations, and with the refinement of the debris mission, the DFA/Mission Assignment request dated August 4, 2025, for full debris removal executed by the federal government is not approved.

FEMA will continue to support the State and City led execution of the debris removal by providing 75% cost share of federal funding for the project as well as mobilization of USACE to provide on-the-ground technical support for the duration of the debris mission. USACE will maintain a technical support role, including the provision of guidance on debris monitoring and management best practices. FEMA will continue to provide technical assistance, including guidance and direction as to the Public Assistance Grant Program to ensure a successful recovery for this disaster.

FEMA recognizes the importance of prompt debris removal to protect public safety, safeguard health, and aid economic recovery, and remains committed to supporting the State of Missouri and the City of St. Louis as they lead the debris management and recovery programs. To date, FEMA has already formulated \$6.4 million dollars in funding for the City of St Louis initial debris removal efforts. FEMA continues to work with the State on debris removal reimbursement for the tremendous efforts by the National Guard in the initial days following the disaster.

FEMA and USACE are dedicated to working collaboratively with the State of Missouri and the City of St. Louis to ensure it has the necessary tools, resources, and technical support to successfully manage the debris management operations and recovery actions. If you have any questions regarding the information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Catherine R. Sanders,
Regional Administrator (Acting)
FEMA Region 7

cc: Ron Broxton, Alternate Governor's Representative, Missouri