

# NQS FAQ

**Question:** What is NQS?

**Answer:** The NQS provides the tools for jurisdictions and organizations to implement their own qualification and certification processes to share resources more seamlessly with other jurisdictions and organizations and to track and maintain qualified and credentialed personnel for disaster response.

**Question:** Who is responsible for the NQS?

**Answer:** Overall responsibility for NQS is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The Director of WV EMD is designated by 6 U.S.C. § 320 “Credentialing and Typing” and Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 “Management of Domestic Incidents” as the States AHJ.

**Question:** Who has responsibility for the Day-to-Day Program Management?

**Answer:** The AHJ can designate a Certifying Official (CO) to facilitate and manage the program. The WV EMD Director has designated the Planning and Preparedness Section Chief as the NQS CO for the State Emergency Management.

**Question:** How do I get qualified, certified, and/or credentialed through the NQS?

**Answer:** There are 3 methods for completing NQS:

- 1) Be assigned and complete a Tier 1, Typed FEMA Position Task Book (PTB)
- 2) Be assigned and complete a local PTB developed using State and local Skillsets
- 3) Submit a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) package to a designated Qualification Review Board (QRB). Detailed instructions for submitting a RPL package are included with the application

**Question:** What is a Qualification Review Board (QRB) and who is a member?

**Answer:** A QRB is the main body that reviews NQS qualification evidence submitted by individuals for certification or credentials for a specific position and makes recommendations to the CO for approval or not.

Note: Regardless of which of the 3 methods used for submission, all applicants for any position within the NQS will be reviewed by the QRB.

**Question:** Who can participate in the NQS Program?

**Answer:** All first responders and any member of a response entity can participate in the NQS. Currently all personnel paid fully or in part by Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds are required to actively participate in the NQS program