

Help After a Disaster: FEMA Individual Assistance Can Help You Recover

Release Date: Sep 14, 2020

Apply for Disaster Assistance

Internet or Smartphone Application

Disaster survivors may apply for the Individuals and Households Program or check their application status at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov). Disaster survivors may also access FEMA via smartphone by downloading the application from www.fema.gov or through their mobile provider's application store.

By Phone

Disaster survivors may call FEMA toll-free at **800-621-3362** to register for assistance or check their application status. Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and use **TTY may call 800-462-7585**. Disaster survivors who use 711 or VRS (Video Relay Service) may call 800-621-3362.

In Person

Visit a drive-thru Disaster Recovery Center. Masks or face coverings are required for entry and service and you will remain in your car. A specialist wearing a face mask will receive your documents through your car window, scan them to your account and return them to you.

- For locations, check FEMA's mobile app www.fema.gov/mobile-app or call **800-621-3362**, or visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

How can FEMA help you?

Assistance from FEMA may help you and members of your household affected by a disaster take care of necessary expenses and serious needs that cannot be met through insurance or other forms of assistance.



Housing Assistance

Housing Assistance may provide financial assistance including:

- **Rental Assistance:** Financial assistance to rent temporary housing while disaster-caused repairs are made to your primary residence, or while transitioning to permanent housing.
- **Lodging Expense Reimbursement:** Financial assistance reimbursement for short-term lodging expenses.
- **Home Repair:** Financial assistance for homeowners to repair uninsured home damage caused by the disaster. The assistance is intended to repair the home to a safe, sanitary and functional living condition.
- **Home Replacement:** Financial assistance for homeowners who must replace or rebuild their primary residence as a result of the disaster.
- **Direct Housing:** In limited circumstances where adequate temporary housing resources are not available within a reasonable commuting distance, FEMA may provide a temporary housing unit directly to homeowners and renters.

Other Needs Assistance

- **Personal Property:** Financial assistance to repair or replace common household items including, but not limited to, furnishings, appliances, essential tools and assistive equipment that supports daily living activities. Also includes generators and chainsaws purchased or rented within 30 days after Aug. 22.
- **Medical/Dental:** Financial assistance to pay for medical or dental expenses or losses caused by the disaster. This includes, but is not limited to, hospital and ambulance services, medication, and the repair or replacement of medically necessary assistive devices or technology.
- **Funeral:** Financial assistance for expenses incurred due to a death or disinterment caused directly or indirectly by the disaster. Expenses include, but are not limited to, the cost of a casket or urn and funeral services.
- **Child Care:** Financial assistance for increased child care costs as a result of the disaster. Eligible expenses include child care costs for children aged 13 and under and/or children with a disability, as defined by Federal law, up to age 21, who need assistance with activities of daily living.
- **Miscellaneous Expenses:** Financial assistance to purchase specific items not owned prior to the disaster. They may include, but are not limited to, items such as a wet/dry vacuum, chainsaw, or a generator for a medically necessary device.
- **Transportation:** Financial assistance to repair or replace a vehicle damaged by the



disaster.

- **Moving and Storage Expenses:** Financial assistance to temporarily move and store personal property from the damaged primary residence while repairs are made. Assistance may also be provided for moving essential household goods to a new primary residence.
- **Critical Needs:** Financial assistance for applicants who have immediate or critical needs because they are displaced from their primary dwelling.

Eligibility Criteria for Housing and Other Needs Assistance

- Your disaster losses must be in a parish that has been Presidentially designated to receive Individual Assistance;
- A member of your household must be a United States citizen, a non-citizen national, or a qualified alien;
- You have necessary expenses or serious needs as a result of the disaster that are not covered by insurance, or you filed an insurance claim but your benefits are not enough to cover your expenses, or your damage was not covered by insurance or other sources.

Additional FEMA Individual Assistance Programs

- **Disaster Unemployment:** Provides unemployment benefits and re-employment assistance services to survivors affected by a Presidentially-declared major disaster. These services are under the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by the State, Local, Territory, or Tribal government emergency management officials of the affected area(s). Learn more online at www.laworks.net or by calling 866-783-5567.

What to Do If You Disagree with FEMA's Decision Letter:

You have the **right to appeal** FEMA's eligibility decisions including the amount of your award.

When do I need to submit my appeal?

You must submit your appeal within **60 days** of the date on your eligibility notification letter.

What do I need to provide?

- A signed, written explanation outlining why you believe FEMA's decision is incorrect



and copies of any documents supporting your appeal, including proof of your disaster losses.

- Your full name, your FEMA Application Number and Disaster Number, your pre-disaster primary residence address, and your current phone number and address should be included on all submitted documents. These numbers are printed on Page 1 of your Decision Letter, above your name and address.

How long will it take before I know if my appeal is approved or denied?

You will receive a decision letter from FEMA within 90 days of FEMA's receipt of your appeal. To check the status of your appeal, or to notify FEMA of any change to your mailing address or contact information, please visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov and select *Check Your Application Status*, or call FEMA's Helpline at **800-621-3362**.

Who can I call if I have questions about my appeal?

Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** (voice/711/VRS). For Spanish, press 2. TTY: 800-621-3362. Or visit: www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

Where do I send my appeal?

Mail to:

FEMA

P.O. Box 10055

Hyattsville, Md. 20782-8055

OR

Fax to:

800-827-8112

Attn: FEMA Appeals Officer

