

FEMA Reforms Disaster Assistance to Help Survivors

To help survivors recover faster, FEMA will make significant updates to its Individual Assistance Program



Establish New Benefits

■ Standardizing Serious Needs Assistance

FEMA is standardizing assistance for serious needs by making a \$750 payment available in all disasters receiving Individual Assistance, for eligible households to access essential items like, food, water, baby formula and other emergency supplies.

■ Create Displacement Assistance

This new form of assistance is designed for survivors that cannot return to their home following a disaster and provides them financial assistance they can use flexibly to pay for their immediate housing needs. It will provide eligible survivors with up-front funds to assist with immediate housing options of their choice until they are able to secure a rental option to focus on their long-term recovery.



Cut Red Tape and Expand Eligibility

■ Simplify Other Needs Assistance

FEMA will no longer require survivors to apply for a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan before being considered for certain types of assistance. Survivors now have the option to apply for a low-interest SBA loan at the same time they apply for FEMA assistance.

■ Help Underinsured Survivors

Survivors who receive an insurance payment for damage to their home may be eligible to receive assistance from FEMA to help them cover aspects of home repair that insurance companies won't pay for, but they can't afford on their own up to the full \$42,500.

■ Expand Habitability Criteria

Survivors who need to fix a disaster-damaged area of their home may qualify for FEMA support so the home is in a safe and sanitary condition, to include home repair regardless of pre-existing conditions of the disaster-damaged area. For example, if an already leaky roof was further damaged by a disaster, it may be eligible for repairs required to bring it back to a working condition.

■ Make Accessibility Improvements

Survivors with disabilities or medical conditions may now be eligible to improve their living conditions by making their homes even more accessible than they were pre-disaster.

■ Simplifying Assistance for Entrepreneurs

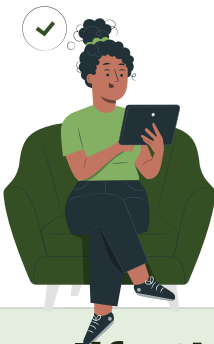
FEMA may provide self-employed survivors with some initial financial support to replace disaster-damaged tools and equipment, or other items required for a specific trade or profession.

■ Expanding Assistance for Computing Devices

Eligible survivors may now receive assistance for a personal or family computer that is damaged by a disaster. They may also receive assistance for additional computers required for work, school or access and functional needs.

Coming Soon!

Changes go into effect for disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024



Simplify the Application Process

■ Streamline Temporary Housing Assistance Applications

FEMA is reducing documentation requirements for applicants seeking continued temporary housing assistance. Individual caseworkers will engage closely with survivors to offer support and increase transparency.

■ Remove Barriers for Late Applicants

Survivors requesting approval for a late application no longer have to provide documentation supporting the reason for their late application.

■ Simplify the Process for Appeals

Survivors who wish to appeal FEMA's decisions will no longer need to provide a signed, written appeal letter to accompany the supporting documentation.

"The limitations on federal assistance have frustrated survivors and delayed recovery for far too long. FEMA was determined to remedy this situation and help reach more people"
– FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell



FEMA