Funeral Assistance - Individuals and Households Program

Under the Other Needs Assistance provision of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Individuals and Households Program, and in conjunction with the State or Tribe, an applicant may qualify for certain eligible funeral expenses.

Funeral Assistance is provided to help with the cost of unmet and uninsured expenses associated with the death of a family member when attributed to an event that is a Presidentially declared emergency or major disaster.

**Eligible Expenses**

Eligible funeral expenses may include:

- Transportation of the deceased and/or up to two family members into the area to identify the deceased, if such identification is required by State, Tribal, and local authorities
- Mortuary services
- Two death certificates
- Cost of casket
- Burial plot
- Interment or cremation

An applicant may be eligible for assistance with reinterment expenses if the disaster-related disinterment occurred on a privately-owned property not operating as a licensed cemetery or burial facility (e.g., family cemetery).

**Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for Funeral Assistance, the applicant must provide:

- A death certificate for the decedent.
- Documentation from a designated authoritative State, Tribal, or local entity (e.g., attending physician, Medical Examiner’s office, or Coroner’s Office) that attributes the death or injury causing death to the declared emergency or major disaster event.
- Confirmation that funeral expenses have not been paid for by other resources. For example, Social Security and Veterans Affairs benefits would duplicate assistance and therefore would be subtracted from any provided Funeral Assistance award amount.
- Evidence of an unmet funeral expense (e.g., a receipt from a service provider).
Ineligibility Determination
Not all applicants reporting funeral expenses will be eligible for Funeral Assistance. Some common reasons for ineligibility include:

- The death was not attributed to the declared incident.
- Funeral expenses are fully covered by other sources of assistance.
- Insufficient and/or incomplete documentation.

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“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”

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