

# Spend FEMA Funds for Specified Disaster-Related Expenses

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As eligible Georgia homeowners and renters begin receiving disaster funds from FEMA for rental assistance, home repairs or other categories of assistance, it is important to keep track of your spending. Use the money for the specified reason stated in the FEMA letter.

## Helpful Tips

- Approved applicants in **Butts, Henry, Jasper, Meriwether, Newton, Pike, Spalding and Troup** counties will receive a letter from FEMA that provides information about the types of assistance they are eligible to receive, and the amount of assistance FEMA is providing for each eligible need. These may include:
  - Home repairs (e.g., structure, water, septic and sewage systems). Homeowners approved for FEMA's Home Repair Assistance may receive additional mitigation funding for their owner-occupied primary residences to help them rebuild stronger. Mitigation funding addresses roof repair to withstand higher winds and help prevent water seeping in.
  - Rental assistance for a different place to live temporarily
  - Repair or replacement of a damaged primary vehicle
  - Uninsured out-of-pocket medical expenses for an injury caused by the disaster
  - Increased childcare expenses
  - Repair or replacement of specialized occupational tools
  - Essential educational materials (e.g., computers, schoolbooks, supplies)
  - Moving and storage expenses related to the tornadoes and other disaster-related expenses
- You may spend your Home Repair grant from FEMA in ways that help make your home safe, accessible and functional. Remember to document how you used the disaster funds and keep all receipts for at least three years for verification of how you spent the money.



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- Federal disaster assistance funds are tax-free. But disaster grants are not for regular living expenses such as utilities, food, medical or dental bills, travel, entertainment, or any discretionary expenses not directly related to the disaster.

### To Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance

- The **deadline to apply** for FEMA assistance is **Monday, March 20**. Here's how to apply:
- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Use the [FEMA mobile app](#)
- Call the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**. Help is available in many languages. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. Helpline operators speak many languages and lines are open from **7 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily**. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.
- For an American Sign Language video on how to apply, go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU7wzRjByhI&list=PL720Kw\\_OoJlKOhtKG7HM\\_0n\\_kEav](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU7wzRjByhI&list=PL720Kw_OoJlKOhtKG7HM_0n_kEav)

For the latest information on Georgia's recovery from the severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4685](https://fema.gov/disaster/4685). You may also follow [@GeorgiaEMAHS/Twitter](#), [Facebook.com/GeorgiaEMAHS](https://Facebook.com/GeorgiaEMAHS), [@FEMARegion4/Twitter](#) and [Facebook.com/FEMA](https://Facebook.com/FEMA).



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