

FEMA Tops \$2 Billion of COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, Announces New Campaign to Increase Program Awareness

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WASHINGTON -- FEMA announced today it has provided over \$2 billion in COVID-19 funeral assistance to support more than 300,000 applicants grappling with the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. FEMA is also launching a new outreach campaign and continuing to process applications to ensure that this program -- already the largest offering of funeral assistance in FEMA's history -- reaches additional eligible families in need.

“FEMA’s COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program has helped provide over 300,000 people with critical financial relief during a time of such unexpected, unimaginable and wide spread loss,” said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. “Our new outreach campaign is designed to reach families, especially across underserved communities, where the cost of a funeral can be a financial burden to a loved one. Our goal is to help families apply for assistance, as well as submit all required documents for existing applications.”

Committed to reaching all affected communities, the agency will begin a targeted paid media campaign this month. FEMA recently hired a media contractor to tailor media efforts to reach the most impactful population-specific outlets.

These new paid advertisements will be directed to localities identified with high rates of COVID-related deaths, low funeral assistance application rates and high Social Vulnerability Index data.

The advertisements will help ensure information about FEMA’s funeral assistance reaches underserved communities that have experienced a high COVID-19 death rate but have low registrations for assistance.



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The four selected areas will be in California, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas.

FEMA is also hosting media roundtables with several community outlets in African American, Hispanic and Latino and Asian American Pacific Islander communities to encourage local press to help spread the word about the Funeral Assistance program. Additionally, FEMA’s multilingual services, available through the Funeral Assistance Helpline, has provided assistance in 76 different languages when requested by the caller.

Eligible applicants may qualify for up to \$9,000 for each deceased individual per application, with a maximum of \$35,000 for families who may have multiple funeral expenses due to COVID-19. Since the assistance began on April 12, 2021, the average amount of assistance awarded is \$6,500.

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the President’s American Rescue Plan gave FEMA the authority to provide COVID-19 funeral assistance and provided the funds for this program.

Additional information, including eligibility requirements, can be found at [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/covid-19-funeral-assistance). People who incurred funeral expenses related to a COVID-19-related death in the United States or its territories on or after Jan. 20, 2020, can also apply by calling 844-684-6333, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT.

“Applications” in the chart below reflect the number of individuals who called to begin the assistance process. Please find state-specific information below:

State / Territory	Applications	Amount Approved	Number of Awards
Alabama	10,409	\$47,592,838.29	6,950
Alaska	348	\$1,058,166.34	205



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American Samoa	Less than 10	\$6,488.60	Less than 10
Arizona	8,588	\$25,694,432.08	5,272
Arkansas	5,182	\$21,344,298.98	3,405
California	38,086	\$168,036,566.34	26,054
Colorado	4,099	\$13,048,543.12	2,351
Connecticut	4,536	\$23,257,962.44	3,353
Delaware	1,320	\$5,726,336.69	885
District Of Columbia	1,023	\$4,487,166.20	673
Florida	31,612	\$125,059,053.64	22,318
Georgia	18,034	\$84,172,597.15	12,136
Guam	27	\$84,924.00	12



Hawaii	518	\$1,778,411.50	299
Idaho	1,748	\$6,019,567.77	1,062
Illinois	17,928	\$83,081,807.17	12,127
Indiana	10,033	\$42,000,641.96	6,000
Iowa	4,078	\$19,046,269.64	2,647
Kansas	4,006	\$16,217,233.25	2,491
Kentucky	8,359	\$37,607,621.78	5,198
Louisiana	8,369	\$39,383,106.44	5,732
Maine	860	\$2,644,395.80	486
Maryland	7,392	\$32,185,153.74	4,777
Massachusetts	8,791	\$37,950,812.16	5,486



Michigan	16,593	\$68,650,389.77	11,157
Minnesota	4,721	\$19,825,792.59	2,946
Mississippi	7,290	\$32,836,209.34	4,870
Missouri	9,915	\$40,579,096.22	6,471
Montana	1,236	\$4,532,322.79	891
Nebraska	2,109	\$9,353,642.01	1,340
Nevada	4,411	\$14,298,694.61	2,681
New Hampshire	903	\$3,522,982.17	591
New Jersey	15,223	\$72,541,952.99	10,561
New Mexico	2,858	\$8,690,638.82	1,678
New York	35,497	\$168,611,126.44	24,677



North Carolina	14,913	\$64,842,965.37	9,873
North Dakota	1,310	\$6,936,490.06	923
Northern Mariana Islands	26	\$34,484.00	Less than 10
Ohio	20,123	\$84,724,770.89	13,054
Oklahoma	6,846	\$28,568,581.02	4,489
Oregon	1,985	\$5,129,560.56	1,129
Pennsylvania	22,580	\$102,447,169.86	15,503
Puerto Rico	2,073	\$4,844,759.02	1,310
Rhode Island	1,646	\$8,179,109.83	1,197
South Carolina	10,166	\$45,974,321.00	6,730
South Dakota	1,245	\$6,470,665.97	884



Tennessee	13,771	\$62,230,078.49	9,091
Texas	41,511	\$189,568,290.36	29,058
U.S. Virgin Islands	66	\$256,424.30	41
Utah	2,210	\$9,639,857.08	1,387
Vermont	183	\$629,468.69	111
Virginia	9,847	\$41,800,291.86	6,243
Washington	3,548	\$11,138,812.45	2,064
West Virginia	3,398	\$14,341,807.81	2,111
Wisconsin	7,869	\$32,506,181.05	4,903
Wyoming	653	\$2,401,273.07	441

