



FEMA

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Fact Sheet

Temporary Housing Units Available in Limited Situations

Register for Disaster Assistance from FEMA

Wed., Aug. 24 is the registration deadline.

Homeowners and renters who sustained losses from the severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred June 22-29, 2016, can apply for disaster assistance three ways:

- Call toll-free **800-621-3362** (voice, 711 or video relay service) or **800-462-7585** (TTY). Lines open **7 a.m. to 10 p.m.** (local time) seven days a week until further notice.
- Visit DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Visit a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. Find your nearest center by calling the FEMA helpline, **800-621-3362** or by visiting <http://www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers>

- At the request of the state of West Virginia, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is bringing in temporary housing units to house eligible disaster survivors in Clay, Greenbrier, Kanawha and Nicholas counties. Those are the only counties where temporary housing units (THUs) are being used.
- Temporary housing units are used after a disaster only as a **last resort**.
 - Usually, the needs of survivors who are displaced from their homes by a disaster are met by available rental apartments or houses in the survivors' communities. FEMA provides eligible applicants with temporary rental assistance.
 - The state and FEMA evaluated the rental resources available in the 12 West Virginia counties eligible for Individual Assistance as a result of the severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides that occurred June 22-29. As a result of this analysis, the state and FEMA determined that the temporary housing needs of survivors could not be met by local rental resources.
- FEMA's housing assessment team is identifying applicants in the four eligible counties who were displaced from their homes by the severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred during the June 22-29 disaster and who may qualify for a temporary housing unit. Generally, only those whose homes were destroyed, severely damaged or made inaccessible by the disaster can be considered for a housing unit.

- Decisions about eligibility are made on an individual basis. There is no “one size fits all”. The process of identifying applicants is ongoing. It is unknown how many applicants will be eligible.
- Households placed in the units receive regular visits from FEMA to check on their continued eligibility and to assist them in progressing toward their permanent housing goals.

THE PROCESS

- After an applicant is approved, there is a process that involves:
 - Ordering and transporting the units from FEMA facilities to a staging area.
 - Identifying and inspecting sites.
 - Moving the unit from the staging area to an approved commercial or private site for a specific household.
 - Complying with local ordinances and permitting requirements for units placed on commercial and private sites.
 - Complying with commercial sites’ occupancy rules, such as requiring background checks.
- Once the unit is ready, FEMA will schedule an occupancy date with the eligible individual or family.
- Family composition determines the size of the home an applicant receives. FEMA supplies one-, two-, or three-bedroom units.
- If feasible, FEMA can place units on survivors’ own property, near their disaster-damaged homes. This makes it easier for them to oversee repairs on their homes while having the comfort of staying in a familiar setting. A FEMA inspector will look at the private site to be sure it meets FEMA requirements and complies with any applicable ordinances. The site must be clear of debris and utility hookups must be readily available.
- **FEMA cannot place units in high-risk flood zones, since this could jeopardize the health and safety of families residing in them.**

ABOUT THE UNITS

- All units have a full kitchen and one bathroom. Units have air conditioning and electric heating and are fully winterized for West Virginia’s climate conditions.
- Units conform to federal standards for safety and air quality. They are equipped with smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and weather radios.
- Units come furnished with basic living, dining, and bedroom furniture.
- Supplied kits of household items include kitchenware, bed linens, cleaning products and other essential items.
- FEMA provides temporary housing units that conform to Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards for people with disabilities who require these units. They may have lower light switches, fire alarms with strobe lights, wheelchair accessible entry, bathroom and kitchen facilities, and other modifications. If a survivor has an access and functional need, FEMA will modify features of a temporary housing unit to accommodate that need.