



## Disaster Case Management

The Disaster Case Management (DCM) program is a Federally funded program administrated by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under section 426 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, 42 U.S.C. 5189d, as amended. In the event of a Presidentially declared major disaster that includes Individual Assistance (IA), the Governor or Tribal Executive of the impacted state, territorial, or tribal government or qualified private organizations may apply for a DCM grant.

DCM is a time-limited program that involves a partnership between a case manager and a disaster survivor to develop and carry out a Disaster Recovery Plan. The Disaster Recovery Plan includes resources, services, decision-making priorities, progress reports, and the goals needed to achieve case closure. This partnership provides the survivor with a single point of contact to facilitate access to a broad range of resources.

The program includes the following:

- Assessment of the survivor's verified disaster-caused unmet needs;
- Development of a goal-oriented plan that outlines the steps necessary to achieve recovery;
- Organization and coordination of information on available resources that match the disaster-caused need; and
- Monitoring of progress toward reaching the recovery plan goals, and when necessary, client advocacy.

The DCM program is a Stafford Act funded program promoting: (a) effective delivery of post-disaster case management services, (b) partner integration, (c) provider capacity building, and (d) state-level program development. The program provides funding and technical assistance to ensure a whole community approach to providing or connecting local services to disaster survivors.

A disaster-caused unmet need is defined as an un-resourced item, support, or assistance that has been assessed and verified by representatives from state, territory, or tribal governments and/or voluntary and faith-based organizations as necessary for the survivor to recover from the disaster. Unmet needs may include basic immediate emergency needs such as food, clothing, shelter, or first aid, and long-term needs such as financial, physical, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

The DCM program supplements state, territory, or tribal governments' capacity to provide DCM services in the event of a Presidential major disaster declaration which includes Individual Assistance. DCM services, provided through a federal DCM grant, are available to any survivor impacted by the declared disaster. This allows individuals who may have suffered losses not covered by state, territory, or tribal government programs, as well as those whose homes are damaged by the disaster, to benefit from DCM services.

**DCM Programs and Services:**

- ***Disaster Case Management Assessment Team.*** The DCM Assessment Team is comprised of FEMA, the state/tribe, and other partners. The purpose of the team is to conduct a quick and comprehensive assessment of the level of disaster-caused unmet needs and the state's resources available to implement a DCM program, while identifying the gaps in service that exist due to the disaster.
- ***DCM Grant.*** The DCM grant is Federal funding made available to the state, territory, and tribal government to implement a DCM program by utilizing DCM providers to supply services to survivors with long-term disaster-caused unmet needs. The DCM grant application must be submitted within 60 days from the date of an Individual Assistance declaration. A long-term DCM's period of performance shall not exceed 24 months from the date of the Presidential major disaster declaration.

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*FEMA's Mission: "Helping people before, during, and after disasters."*

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