



FEMA

Recovery FAQs

Citizenship Status and Eligibility for Disaster Assistance

1. What are FEMA's citizenship/immigration requirements?

- You must be a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien in order to be eligible for FEMA cash assistance programs: Individuals and Households Program Assistance and Disaster Unemployment Assistance.
- A Qualified Alien¹ includes anyone with legal permanent residence ("green card").
- You will be asked to sign a Declaration and Release (FEMA Form 90-69 B) that you are a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien.
- If you cannot sign the Declaration and Release, another adult household member who is eligible can sign it and no information regarding your status will be gathered.
- If you cannot sign the Declaration and Release but you have a minor child who is a U.S. Citizen or a Qualified Alien residing with you, you can apply for assistance on your child's behalf and no information regarding your status will be gathered. You will be asked to sign a declaration that your child is a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien.
- You do not have to be a U.S. Citizen or a Qualified Alien for Crisis Counseling or Disaster Legal Services or for other short-term, non-cash emergency assistance.

2. If I am an undocumented immigrant, am I eligible for assistance for disaster-related needs?

- Yes, you may be eligible under many different programs run by state and local agencies and voluntary agencies for various types of cash assistance.

3. If I am an undocumented immigrant, am I eligible for any assistance from FEMA?

- You may be eligible for short-term, non-cash, emergency aid provided by FEMA.
- You will not be **personally** eligible for FEMA cash assistance programs (Individuals and Households Program Assistance); however, you may apply on behalf of your U.S. citizen child, or another adult household member may qualify the household for assistance.

¹ A "Qualified Alien" includes anyone who has been granted legal permanent residence ("green card"), refugee or asylum status, withholding of deportation, conditional entry, parole into the U. S. for at least 1 year for humanitarian purposes; is a Cuban-Haitian Entrant; or has a pending or approved petition for relief based on battery or extreme cruelty by a family member.

4. If I am an undocumented immigrant, can I apply on behalf of my child who was born in the United States?

- You can apply on behalf of your minor child (under 18 years of age) for FEMA cash assistance (Individuals and Households Program Assistance) if you live together.
- You will not have to provide any information on your immigration status or sign any documents regarding your status.

5. Do I need a Social Security Number to register for FEMA cash assistance (Individual and Households Program Assistance)?

- If you are applying on your minor child's behalf, you should provide his/her Social Security Number.

6. Are foreign students studying in the United States eligible for FEMA cash assistance (Individuals and Households Program Assistance) as "Qualified Aliens"?

- While foreign students may qualify for non-cash in-kind disaster relief (such as search and rescue, provision of food, water, sheltering, or emergency medical assistance), they do not qualify for cash assistance because their authorization to reside in the United States is based in part on the existence of an in-country support system.

7. If I have a Social Security Number, am I eligible for FEMA cash assistance (Individuals and Households Program Assistance) as a "Qualified Alien"?

- Not necessarily, because having a Social Security Number does not automatically mean that you are a Qualified Alien. You may be legally present in the U.S. and have a Social Security Number, but not be a Qualified Alien.