

FEMA Disaster Grants Won't Affect Social Security, Other Benefits

Release Date: December 8, 2022

ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Ill. – Receiving federal disaster assistance from FEMA will not affect other federal benefits that Illinois survivors may receive.

People affected by the St. Clair County July flooding who register with FEMA may have questions about whether funds from FEMA might cause them to lose other federal payments they receive.

FEMA disaster grants are not taxable income. Accepting a FEMA grant will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and other federal welfare and entitlement programs.

Disaster grants help survivors pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, essential personal property replacement and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other sources.

There are several ways you can apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

- Apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov
- Download and use the [FEMA mobile app](#) to apply
- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** to apply
- If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA the number for that service. The Helpline is open seven days a week. Press 2 for Spanish or 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.
- Survivors may also **apply in person** at one of the Disaster Recovery Centers:

Clyde Jordan Senior Citizen Center 6755 State Street, East St. Louis, Illinois 62203



Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and closed on Sundays

Closing permanently **Thursday, December, 22**

Caseyville Village Hall 909 South Main Street, Caseyville, Illinois 62232

Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and closed on Sundays

Closing permanently **Friday, December, 16**

No appointment is necessary to visit a recovery center. Walk-ins are welcome.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 833-285-7448. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish and 3 for other languages).

For disaster updates from FEMA, follow [@FEMAreion5](#) on Twitter, and turn on mobile notifications. Visit the disaster webpage at fema.gov/disaster/4676.

For disaster updates from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), follow @ReadyIllinois on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and turn on mobile notifications. <http://www.illinois.gov/iema/> continues to be a go-to, single source to help Illinois residents easily find information and disaster-related resources.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.



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