

You May Be Able to Get Disaster Assistance

FEMA and the state, territory or tribal government may provide direct and financial disaster assistance to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals and qualified aliens.

Disaster assistance may include money for temporary rental assistance, home repairs, personal property loss, medical losses, funeral expenses, and other serious disaster-related needs or expenses not covered by insurance or other means.



U.S. Citizen – A person born in an outlying possession of the U.S. (i.e., American Samoa or Swain’s Island) on or after the date the U.S. acquired the possession, or a person whose parents are U.S. nationals. All U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals, but not every U.S. national is a U.S. citizen.

U.S. National – A person born in an outlying possession of the U.S. (i.e., American Samoa or Swain’s Island) on or after the date the U.S. acquired the possession, or a person whose parents are U.S. nationals. All U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals, but not every U.S. national is a U.S. citizen.



Individuals should consult an immigration expert to verify if they meet the immigration status requirements for FEMA disaster assistance.

A Qualified Alien Includes

- Legal Permanent Residents (“**Green Card**” holders)
- Aliens **granted asylum**
- Refugees
- Aliens whose **deportation status is being withheld for at least one year**
- Aliens paroled into the U.S. for at least **one year for urgent humanitarian purposes or significant public benefit**
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Certain **battered aliens or their spouses or children**
- Certain victims of a **severe form of human trafficking, including persons with a “T” or “U” visa**
- Legal residents in accordance with the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau

If an applicant does not meet the citizenship or immigration status at the time of application, the household may still apply for certain forms of federal assistance if:

- The parent or legal guardian of a minor child who is a U.S. citizen or qualified alien applies for assistance on behalf of the minor child, so **long as they live in the same household. The parent or legal guardian must apply as the co-applicant, and the minor child must be under age 18 at the time the disaster occurred.**

All individuals, regardless of citizenship and immigration status, affected by a major disaster **may be eligible for crisis counseling assistance, disaster legal services, disaster case management, disaster supplemental nutrition assistance program and other non-monetary, in-kind emergency disaster-relief programs.** These include medical care, shelter, food and water.