

Spend FEMA Grants for Storm Recovery Expenses Only

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BATON ROUGE, La. – More than 1,500 Louisiana households have already been approved for FEMA grants to help them recover from damage caused by the severe winter storms from Feb. 11 - 19.

It is important to remember that the funds are to be used only for certain disaster-related expenses. FEMA may audit survivors to confirm they spent grants for basic home repairs, replacing essential household items or paying for somewhere to stay if they cannot return home.

FEMA sends survivors letters that detail approved uses for grants. These may include:

- Repairs to make a home habitable
- Rental assistance to temporarily pay for a place to stay
- An uninsured hotel stay because of utility failure

Rental assistance grants are provided for temporary housing when a disaster leaves your home uninhabitable or inaccessible.

Disaster grants should not be used for travel, entertainment, regular living expenses or any discretionary expenses not related to the disaster. Survivors should keep receipts for three years to show how they spent FEMA grants.

If grant money is not used as outlined in the letter, you may have to repay FEMA and you could lose eligibility for further federal assistance that could become available.

Survivors in Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Grant, LaSalle, Madison, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn parishes have until Monday, May 10 to apply for



federal disaster help.

Register for assistance in one of three ways:

- Online by logging onto DisasterAssistance.gov
- The **FEMA app**. Visit: fema.gov/mobile-app or your phone's app store.
- Call **800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585)**. Toll-free numbers are open daily from **7 a.m. to 10 p.m.** Multilingual operators are available.

Part of the FEMA disaster assistance registration process includes providing a call back phone number for FEMA to contact you to set up a home inspection for damages caused by the disaster and other helpline information. It is strongly recommended if using a relay service, such as your videophone, InnoCaption or CapTel, that you provide your specific number assigned to that service. It is important that FEMA is able to contact you, and you should be aware phone calls from FEMA may come from an unidentified number.

For the latest information on Louisiana winter storms, visit [Louisiana Severe Winter Storms \(DR-4590-LA\)](#). Follow the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at twitter.com/FEMARegion6.

