FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance is Still Available for South Carolinians

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ATLANTA – Federal funding for COVID-19-related funeral costs is still available. FEMA has provided more than \$42 million to more than 6,000 people in South Carolina who lost loved ones during the pandemic.

To apply for assistance or ask questions about an existing application, individuals should call **844-684-6333**, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., ET Monday – Friday. Multilingual operators are available. Callers who use a relay service, such as a videophone, video relay services (VRS), captioned telephone, or other service should provide FEMA with the specific number assigned to them for that service.

While COVID-19 funeral assistance can be reimbursed, applicants are not required to pay for funeral expenses prior to receiving assistance. Applicants must provide FEMA with a signed funeral home contract, invoice, or similar legal documentation that shows the COVID-19-related funeral expenses were incurred on or after Jan. 20, 2020.

There is no deadline to apply for this assistance. In April, applications incomplete after 1 year, will be moved to a suspended status. The application can be reactivated without appeal by submitting the required documents. There are more than 1,600 applications in South Carolina awaiting additional documentation.

Additional information about <u>COVID-19 funeral assistance</u>, including <u>frequently</u> asked questions, is available on <u>FEMA.gov</u>.

