

FEMA Assistance Won't Affect Other Benefits

Release Date: 7? 28, 2022

Oklahoma residents who receive Social Security payments or other government assistance should not be concerned that FEMA disaster assistance will affect your benefits.

FEMA disaster assistance is not taxable income. Accepting a FEMA grant will not affect your Social Security benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other federal programs.

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

Applying with nonprofit or faith-based agencies does not make you eligible for FEMA assistance; you must apply with FEMA.

How to Apply

The fastest and easiest way to apply is by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov. Survivors can also apply by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. When you apply for assistance, have the following information readily available:

- [A current phone number where you can be contacted](#)
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Your Social Security number, if available
- A general list of damage and losses if you know what they are
- Your insurance policy number and the name of your agent or company

Reasonable Accommodations



If you need an accommodation or assistance due to a disability, ask FEMA at the time of applying or anytime throughout the assistance process. Here's how:

- Call the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.
- FEMA can provide interpreters, real-time captioning, and information in alternate formats such as large- print, audio, and electronic versions.
- The agency also provides free services to help survivors communicate with its staff and understand FEMA programs. Among the aids are:
 - Information available in accessible electronic formats on FEMA's website and social media
 - Qualified American Sign Language interpreters
 - Qualified multilingual interpreters
 - Information written in multiple languages

