

News September 29, 2024

# How to Apply for FEMA Assistance in Florida After Hurricane Helene

**ATLANTA** – Florida homeowners and renters in 17 counties who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Hurricane Helene may be eligible for FEMA disaster assistance.

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. Homeowners and renters in Charlotte, Citrus, Dixie, Franklin, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Taylor and Wakulla counties can apply.

If you applied to FEMA after Hurricane Debby and have additional damage from Hurricane Helene, you will need to apply separately for Helene and provide the dates of your most recent damage. Apply for either storm online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov). You can also apply using the [FEMA mobile app](#) or by calling FEMA's helpline toll-free at 800-621-3362. Lines are open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance – YouTube](#).

FEMA's disaster assistance offers [new benefits](#) that provide flexible funding directly to survivors. In addition, a simplified process and expanded eligibility allows Floridians access to a wider range of assistance and funds for serious needs.

## What You'll Need When You Apply

- 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 numbers.
- A general list of damage and losses.
- Banking information if you choose direct deposit.
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name.

If you have homeowners, renters or flood insurance, file a claim as soon as possible. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If your policy does not cover all your disaster expenses, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

For the latest information about Florida's Hurricane Helene recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4828](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4828). Follow FEMA on X at [x.com/femaregion4](https://twitter.com/femaregion4) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/fema](https://www.facebook.com/fema).

## Departments

Emergency Management Department

## Topics

### Safety & Emergencies

- Disaster Preparedness
- Flooding and Stormwater
- Hurricanes

## Contact Information

**Cathie Perkins**

**Director**

**Pinellas County Emergency Management**

10750 Ulmerton Road

Largo, FL 33778

(727) 464-3800

[ema@pinellas.gov](mailto:ema@pinellas.gov)

### During Emergencies

County Information Center (727) 464-4333

[Know Your Risk](#)

[Make a Plan](#)

[Stay Informed](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[Emergency Information](#)



## Stay Connected

Enter your email address to stay updated on the latest county news, events and opportunities.

Email Address

SIGN UP

*Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.*

## **SVDP DISASTER SERVICES CORP.**

### **Important Information to Share with Survivors about FEMA.**

1. One of the questions that FEMA will ask when you register is "Do You Have Emergency Needs"? This means during your evacuation or since staying at home during the disaster, do you need help with Gas, Medication, Food (meals, water, had no power and everything spoils), Shelter (you are staying with friends, family or in a hotel); Clothing; or Durable Medical Equipment (oxygen, walkers, cane, glasses, all major equipment, etc). Say "YES" to this question. That will result in your receiving Displacement / Serious Needs Assistance, which is \$750.
2. When asked if your home is/was accessible, answer "NO" if there was debris, tree branches, continued flooding, loss of power, damage or destruction that prevented you from staying there after Helene. This question is asking whether you can stay at your home or apartment and will trigger the ability for you to receive assistance to pay for hotels or provide funding to use while you stay with family or friends.
3. When asked if utilities are out, say "YES" even if your utilities were out for a few days. This triggers assistance \$ to stay somewhere other than your home or to buy fuel to power a generator.
4. When asked "Are you willing to relocate" say "YES" if you cannot live in your home due to damage, loss of power, etc. This question means you are willing to stay in a hotel or apartment **temporarily**, and triggers that funding for you. It is not asking if you are willing to move away from your home permanently.
5. If you bought or buy a generator, FEMA will reimburse you up to \$629, but you must submit the receipt. If you bought a chainsaw, FEMA will reimburse you up to \$219. Again, you need to provide the receipt. Save your receipts.

Everyone affected by this storm needs to get a FEMA registration # - call 800 621-3362

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An official website of the United States government.

Here's how you know

DisasterAssistance.gov (1)

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# Get Assistance



## Application Checklist

### Disaster Survivor Application Checklist

Before you start your FEMA application, please have the information below and a pen and paper ready.

#### Social Security Number

**You, another adult, or a minor child member in your household must have a Social Security number. You or they must also be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified non-citizen.**

If you don't have a Social Security number, go to the [Social Security Number and Card \(https://www.ssa.gov/number-card\)](https://www.ssa.gov/number-card) page. You will get instructions on what to do and what documents you will need.

Once you have your number, you may come back to **DisasterAssistance.gov** or call the FEMA Helpline to apply.

#### Insurance Information

Describe the type(s) of insurance coverage you have. This could include coverage under policies like homeowners, flood, automobile, or mobile home insurance.

#### Damage Information

Describe the damage caused by the disaster. Include the type of disaster (like flood, hurricane, or earthquake) and the type of home or vehicle (like a condo, mobile home or house, or a car or truck).

#### Financial Information

Provide your total annual household income, before taxes, at the time of the disaster.

#### Contact Information

Provide the address and phone number of the property where the damage occurred and the address and phone number of where we can reach you now.

### Direct Deposit Information (optional)

If approved, we can deposit your funds directly into your bank account. You just need to provide the following banking information:

- Bank name
- Type of account (like checking or savings)
- Routing number
- Account number

**NEED HELP?** If you need help with the application, please call the FEMA Helpline.

### For help with your application or to apply by phone, call the FEMA Helpline:

- 1-800-621-3362
- If you use a video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone (CTS), or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

### To apply for other assistance that FEMA doesn't manage:

You must follow the instructions provided for each program. This may require going to other agency websites.

Read [How do I search for assistance \(/help/faqs#before-you-apply-3\)](#) on our **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** page to learn more.

*Last Updated: 09/10/2024*

#### Connect to FEMA



(<https://www.facebook.com/FEMA/?ref=bookmarks>)



(<https://www.instagram.com/fema>)



(<https://twitter.com/fema>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/fema>)

Take our Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/General-2016>)



DisasterAssistance.gov

An official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security



An official website of the United States government.

Here's how you know

DisasterAssistance.gov (/)

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# What to Expect When You Apply Online



## 1. Disaster is Declared

After a major disaster, the President may declare Individual Assistance for certain damaged areas in a state. If you live in one of these areas, you may qualify to apply

### START THE APPLICATION PROCESS



## 2. Find Out If You Can Apply

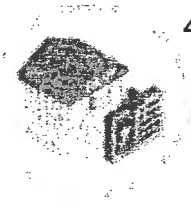
Click **Let's Get Started** on the Home page and we'll ask you a few questions to find out if you can apply.



## 3. Create an Account on Login.gov

You need to create an account so you can do a few things:

Save your application to finish later, get your status and respond to messages, and upload documents.



## 4. Gather Your Personal Information

You'll need to have as much of the following info ready as you can:

Home, mailing, and email addresses; phone number; Social Security number (SSN); banking and insurance info.



## 5. Fill Out the Application



Enter as much detail as you can. You can go back to your account later to enter anything you don't have handy now.


## 6. Review and Send Your Application



Check what you've entered, make changes if you need to, and send your application to FEMA. Remember to save and keep your **Application ID**. You'll need it anytime you talk with FEMA.


## AFTER YOU APPLY

### 7. FEMA Reviews Your Application




If FEMA can't qualify you based on your application alone, we may request more info or to inspect your home.

### 8. Check Your Email



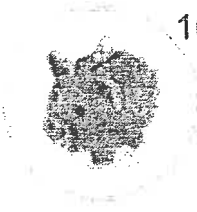
FEMA will email you when you have messages in your account.

### 9. Check Your Status



You can sign in to your account at any time to check the status of your application.

### 10. Get Payment



If you qualify, FEMA will send a payment using the method you choose. You can get a direct deposit or a check by mail.

If you have more questions, check out our [Frequently Asked Questions \(/help/faqs\)](/help/faqs) page.

Find out if you can apply

### Connect to FEMA



(<https://www.facebook.com/FEMA/?ref=bookmarks>)



(<https://www.instagram.com/fema>)



(<https://twitter.com/fema>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/fema>)

Take our Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/General-2016>)



## DisasterAssistance.gov

An official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Accountability (<https://www.dhs.gov/previous-performance-and-accountability-reports>)

Inspector General (<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/>)

USA.gov - Business (<https://www.usa.gov/small-business>)

Ready.gov (<https://www.ready.gov/>)

Accessibility (<https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/civil-rights#accessibility>)

Site Map (</sitemap>)

FEMA.gov (<https://www.fema.gov/>)

Privacy (</help/privacy-policy>)

No FEAR Act (<https://www.fema.gov/civil-rights/employee/no-fear-act>)

SAM.gov - Assistance (<https://sam.gov/content/assistance-listings>)

DHS.gov (<https://www.dhs.gov/>)

Plain Writing (<https://www.dhs.gov/plain-writing-dhs>)

USA.gov (<https://www.usa.gov/>)

FEMA Mobile App (<https://www.fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/mobile-products>)

FOIA (<https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/administrative/foia>)

Budget and Performance (<https://www.dhs.gov/budget-performance>)

WhiteHouse.gov (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/>)

# National Terrorism Advisory System