

Here's What FEMA Can Do for Georgia Hurricane Survivors

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ATLANTA — It has been nearly six weeks since President Biden authorized federal assistance for Georgia survivors of Hurricane Idalia. During that time, FEMA has approved about \$3.5 million in Individual Assistance grants to help hurricane-impacted residents in Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Glynn, and Lowndes counties through their recovery.

These FEMA grants include Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance, through FEMA's Individual and Households Program (IHP), and are helping eligible individuals and households who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the Aug. 30 hurricane. The assistance is meant to return your home to a safe, sanitary, and functional residence.

FEMA assistance cannot duplicate the benefits provided by other sources, such as insurance, and cannot pay for all hurricane-caused losses. Individuals should apply to FEMA to determine whether they are eligible for assistance.

Apply by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov, using the [FEMA mobile app](#), or calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to, youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWI2RCNw.

Housing Assistance

FEMA's Housing Assistance (HA) provides funds paid directly to eligible individuals and households and may include the following types of assistance:



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- **Rental Assistance** to rent alternate housing while an applicant is displaced from a disaster-damaged primary residence. Rental Assistance may be used to rent a house, apartment, manufactured home, recreational vehicle, or other dwelling.
- **Lodging Expense Reimbursement** for hotels, motels, or other short-term lodging while an applicant is displaced from a disaster-damaged primary residence.
- **Home Repair Assistance** to help repair an owner-occupied disaster-damaged primary residence, utilities, and residential structure to a safe and sanitary living or functional condition.
- **Replacement Assistance** to help homeowners replace an owner-occupied primary residence when it is destroyed by the disaster.
- **Hazard Mitigation Under IHP:** Homeowners who are eligible for IHP assistance may receive additional funds from FEMA for specific hazard mitigation measures. Applicants will be informed if they qualify for this assistance, which is limited and will only be provided for components that were damaged by the disaster and were functional prior to the disaster. The eligible mitigation measures include:
 - **Roof Repair** to withstand higher winds and help prevent water leakage.
 - **Elevating** a water heater or furnace to avoid future flood damage.
 - **Elevating or moving** an electrical panel to avoid future flood damage.

Other Needs Assistance

FEMA's Other Needs Assistance (ONA) provides survivors with financial assistance for disaster-caused necessary expenses and serious needs. Some types of assistance in this category may be provided only if you are not referred to, or do not qualify for a disaster loan from, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The SBA provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to help eligible applicants with transportation losses, as well as repair/replacement funds for real and personal property damage caused by the disaster.



SBA Dependent Types of Other Needs Assistance

Only applicants who do not qualify for a loan from the SBA, or who were approved for a partial loan, but the amount of the loan was insufficient to meet the applicant's disaster necessary expenses or serious needs, may be eligible for the following types of assistance:

- **Personal Property Assistance** to repair or replace essential household items including, but not limited to, furnishings and appliances; specialized tools and protective clothing required by an employer; and assistance for specific accessibility items defined within the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **Transportation Assistance** to repair or replace an eligible vehicle damaged by a disaster and other transportation-related costs.
- **Group Flood Insurance Policy** is issued to qualified applicants by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Direct Program. For a modest premium, survivors receive a minimum amount of building and/or contents coverage for a 3-year policy period.

Non-SBA Dependent Types of Other Needs Assistance

FEMA assistance available regardless of the applicant's SBA disaster loan status may include:

- **Funeral Assistance** is available for expenses related to a death or disinterment attributed directly or indirectly to a declared disaster.
- **Medical and Dental Assistance** to assist with medical or dental expenses caused by a disaster, which may include injury, illness, loss of prescribed medication and equipment, insurance co-payments, or loss/injury to a service animal.
- **Childcare Assistance** in the form of a one-time payment, covering up to eight cumulative weeks of childcare expenses, for a household's increased financial burden to care for children aged 13 and under, and/or children up to age 21 with a disability, who need assistance with activities with daily living as defined



by federal law.

- **Moving and Storage Assistance** to relocate and store personal essential household goods from the damaged primary residence to prevent further disaster damage, such as ongoing repairs, and returning the property to the applicant's primary residence.
- **Miscellaneous or Other Items Assistance** to reimburse for eligible items purchased or rented after a disaster to assist with an applicant's disaster recovery, such as gaining access to the property or a chainsaw or dehumidifier for cleaning a home.
- **Note:** FEMA cannot reimburse you for food lost due to a power failure. However, voluntary organizations in your community may be able to help.

For more information about the program, visit www.fema.gov/assistance/individual.

For the latest information on Georgia's recovery from Hurricane Idalia, visit fema.gov/disaster/4738, follow FEMA on X, formerly known as Twitter, at twitter.com/femaregion4 and at facebook.com/fema.

