

# Disaster Assistance Tops \$1 Million for West Virginia Survivors

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News Release

Disaster Assistance Tops \$1 Million for West Virginia Survivors

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – Less than two weeks after President Joe Biden issued a major disaster declaration for West Virginia, more than \$1 million has been approved for homeowners and renters affected by the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides and mudslides of April 2-6, 2024.

That total includes more than \$675 thousand in housing assistance, to help homeowners and renters with expenses such as temporary housing and essential home repairs. Additionally, more than \$417 thousand has been approved for other needs assistance, which covers expenses such as transportation, childcare and medical and dental costs. More than **756** households and businesses have registered with FEMA to date.

“FEMA is pleased and proud to be able to help West Virginians recover from the devastation of those early April storms,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Jeff Jones. “We’re especially pleased to see how the updates to the Individual Assistance program have helped more people get funding they need in a faster and easier way.”

To date, five housing inspectors have completed more than 300 inspections of disaster-damaged properties to verify damage.

Federal disaster assistance is available to residents of 11 counties: Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Marshall, Nicholas, Ohio, Putnam, Wayne and



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Wetzel.

- The State and FEMA have opened two Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Kanawha and Nicholas counties, with Putnam and Wetzel counties scheduled to open this week, and more opening soon. The centers report 114 visitors to date. The DRCs are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The centers and addresses are below:

#### **Kanawha County Disaster Recovery Center**

Tyler Mountain Fire Department

5380 Big Tyler Road

Charleston, WV 25313

Hours of operation:

Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: The Kanawha County DRC site will be open through Saturday, June 8. Future sites serving Kanawha County will be announced weekly as the locations are established.

#### **Nicholas County Disaster Recovery Center**

Nicholas County Office of Emergency Management

449 Water Street

Summersville, WV 26651

Hours of operation:

Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Survivors do not have to visit a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) to register with FEMA. If it is not possible to visit a DRC, call 800-621- FEMA (3362). The toll-free telephone line operates from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.

The fastest and easiest way to apply for assistance is by visiting [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)

In support of the State of West Virginia, FEMA has deployed six Disaster Survivor Assistance teams to canvass shelters and visit storm-damaged homes in hard-hit areas to register people and answer their questions about disaster assistance.

Other help available to individuals:

- Additional Disaster Recovery Centers will be opening in impacted counties. Visit the [FEMA DRC Locator](#) page for more details on open centers in West Virginia.
- For those who lost work as a result of the storms, Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available. For more information, visit Work Force West Virginia at [workforcewv.org](http://workforcewv.org)

Disaster assistance grants from FEMA are not taxable income and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid, welfare assistance, food stamps and several other programs. Disaster grants are just that—grants that do not have to be paid back to the government.

One of FEMA's federal partners in disaster recovery, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), offers low-interest disaster loans for businesses of all sizes, homeowners, renters and private non-profit organizations. SBA disaster loans may cover repairs, rebuilding, as well as the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged real estate and personal property.

For more information about SBA loans, call SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955, email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) or visit <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>. Applicants may also apply online via SBA's secure website at <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay



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services.

For more information on West Virginia's disaster recovery, visit [emd.wv.gov](http://emd.wv.gov), [West Virginia Emergency Management Division Facebook page](#), [www.fema.gov/disaster/4783](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4783) and [www.facebook.com/FEMA](http://www.facebook.com/FEMA).

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*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. FEMA Region 3's jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.*

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*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 833-285-7448. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish and 3 for other languages).*

