

Renters Can Apply for Federal Assistance

Release Date: October 12, 2020

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The FEMA **Individuals and Housing Program** is available to all eligible renters and homeowners in the counties of Butte, Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo, which are covered in the Aug. 22 federal disaster declaration. Federal monetary awards may help pay for temporary housing and other needs not covered by insurance. The initial rental award is for two months and may be reviewed for further assistance.

Renters may also qualify for an award under FEMA's **Other Needs Assistance Program** for essential personal property and other disaster-related expenses. These may include replacement or repair of necessary personal property, such as furniture, appliances, clothing, textbooks or school supplies; replacement or repair of tools and other job-related equipment; vehicle repair; and medical/dental bills.

Anyone can register with FEMA:

- Online, by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov;
- By downloading the FEMA app to a smartphone or tablet; or
- By calling the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585)**. Multi-lingual operators are available. The toll-free lines are open **7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. PDT daily**. Helpline operators are also available to answer questions about applications already submitted.

The registration process includes your providing a phone number so FEMA can contact you and set up a *virtual* home inspection. If you use a relay service such as a videophone, Innocaption or CapTel, you should provide FEMA your specific number assigned to that service.

To register online at disasterassistance.gov click the blue Apply Online button at the bottom of the page, then review the disaster survivor application checklist and complete an application to learn if you are eligible to receive disaster assistance.



After registering, you may stay on disasterassistance.gov to create a personal online disaster assistance account to stay in touch with FEMA. **To create one:**

- Click the green Check Status button at bottom of disasterassistance.gov.
- Click the blue Create Account button at bottom of page.
- Enter your date of birth and Social Security number, which you provided previously when registering for assistance.
- Answer four security questions that are generated from public record data to verify your identity.
- Create a user ID and password.
- Enter an email address. FEMA will send a temporary PIN to it within 24 hours. Follow the instructions in the email to finish creating your account.

For the latest information on wildfire recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4558.

###

