

Spend FEMA Grants Wisely

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While Louisianans have been approved for FEMA grants to help them recover from Hurricane Zeta, it is important to remember that the funds are to be used only for certain disaster-related expenses.

FEMA may audit survivors to confirm they spent grants for basic home repairs, replacing essential household items or paying for somewhere to stay if they cannot return home.

FEMA sends survivors letters that detail approved uses for grants including:

- Repairs to make a home habitable;
- Rental assistance to temporarily pay for a place to stay;
- Repair or replacement of a disaster-damaged essential vehicle;
- Medical care for an injury caused by the disaster;
- Replacing clothing, occupational tools and educational materials; and
- Moving and storage expenses related to the disaster.

Disaster grants should not be used for travel, entertainment, regular living expenses or any discretionary expenses not related to the disaster. Survivors should keep receipts for three years to show how they spent FEMA grants.

If grant money is not used as described above, you may have to repay FEMA and you could lose eligibility for further federal assistance that could become available.

Survivors in disaster declared parishes have until Mar. 15 to apply for FEMA help.

Register for assistance in one of three ways:

- Online by logging onto DisasterAssistance.gov;
- The FEMA app. Visit: fema.gov/mobile-app or your phone's app store; or
- Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585). Multilingual operators are available.



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Part of the FEMA disaster assistance registration process includes providing a call back phone number for FEMA to contact you to set up a home inspection for damage caused by the disaster and other Helpline information. It is recommended if you use a relay service, such as your videophone, InnoCaption or CapTel, that you provide your specific number assigned to that service. It is important that FEMA can contact you, and you should know phone calls from FEMA may come from an unidentified number.

For the latest information on Hurricane Zeta, visit fema.gov/disaster/4577. Or follow the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at twitter.com/FEMARegion6.

