

Citizenship and Immigration Status Requirements for FEMA Assistance

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FRANKFORT, Ky. – To be eligible for federal assistance, disaster survivors of the April 2 severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals or qualified non-citizens. Undocumented families with diverse immigration status only need one family member (including a minor child) who is a U.S. citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen, and has a Social Security number to apply.

Qualified non-citizens are defined as:

- Legal permanent residents (“green card” holders);
- Non-citizens granted asylum;
- Refugees;
- Anyone whose deportation is being withheld for at least one year;
- Anyone in the U. S. for humanitarian reasons for at least one year;
- Certain Cuban/Haitian entrants;
- Battered non-citizens, or their spouses or children; and
- Victims of human trafficking.

If a survivor does not meet the required citizenship or immigration status criteria, the individual may still apply and be considered for assistance if:

- The parent or legal guardian of a minor child who is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified non-citizen applies on behalf of the minor child, so long as they live in the same household. The parent or legal guardian must apply as the co-applicant, and the minor child must be under age 18 when the disaster occurred.

There are several categories of non-citizens legally present in the U.S. who are not eligible for assistance, such as foreign students and temporary or work visa holders.



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Survivors who do not qualify for federal assistance may still call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** for referrals to voluntary agencies.

Demonstrating occupancy and ownership of the damaged residence is required for certain types of assistance and the applicant must meet FEMA's citizenship requirements. When an application is based on a minor child's eligibility, the following requirements apply:

- **Occupancy:** The co-applicant must be the child's parent or legal guardian and prove they occupied the disaster-damaged residence at the time of the disaster.
- **Ownership:** The co-applicant must be the child's parent or legal guardian and prove they own the disaster-damaged residence.

Many forms of disaster assistance, such as crisis counseling, legal services, case management and short-term, non-cash assistance, such as medical care, shelter, food and water are available to individuals and families regardless of citizenship status. The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is July 22, 2024.

All disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual orientation), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, or economic status. If a survivor believes their civil rights are being violated, they may call the FEMA Helpline. If they use a video relay service, captioned telephone service, or other communication services, the survivor should provide FEMA the specific number assigned for that service.

For the latest information on Kentucky's recovery from the April 2 severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides, please visit fema.gov/disaster/4782. Follow FEMA on X, formerly called Twitter, at twitter.com/femaregion4 and at facebook.com/fema.

