

# Understanding Your FEMA Determination Letter and How to Appeal

---

Release Date: Oct 29, 2024

SIOUX FALLS – If you applied for assistance from FEMA, you will receive a letter from FEMA in the mail or via email. The letter will explain your application status and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully because it will include the amount of any assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

## Next Steps

**You may need to submit additional information or supporting documentation for FEMA to continue to process an application for financial assistance.** Examples of missing documentation may include:

- Proof of insurance coverage
- Settlement of insurance claims or denial letter from insurance provider
- Proof of identity
- Proof of occupancy
- Proof of ownership
- Proof that the damaged property was your primary residence at the time of the disaster

If you have questions about your letter, or disagree with the initial decision, [visit a Disaster Recovery Center](#) or call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362** to find out what information FEMA needs.

## How to Appeal

The letter from FEMA will provide information on the types of documents or information that FEMA needs. It will also include an optional appeal form that you can use. If you disagree with the determination, you have the right to appeal. Your appeal must be submitted within 60 days of the date of your decision letter.



**You can submit your appeal and supporting documentation in the following ways:**

- Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), where you can create an account and upload documents.
- In-person at a [Disaster Recovery Center](#).
- By mail
  - FEMA Individuals & Households Program
  - National Processing Service Center
  - P. O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055
- By fax
  - (800) 827-8112
  - Attention: FEMA - Individuals & Households Program



**FEMA**