

# FEMA Expands Individual Assistance to Additional Florida Counties; 26 Now Eligible

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WASHINGTON -- Glades and Pasco counties are now eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance after Hurricane Ian, bringing to 26 the number of counties eligible. As of Oct. 15, more than \$387.4 million in assistance has been approved for Florida.

## How FEMA is helping Floridians

- **FEMA has made individual assistance available to 26 counties in Florida.** Residents in Brevard, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns and Volusia counties are eligible to apply for individual assistance.
- **FEMA is meeting survivors where they are to help jumpstart their recoveries.** Disaster Survivor Assistance specialists are going door-to-door in Florida neighborhoods to help individuals register for assistance. These teams have interacted with 26,000 individuals.
- **Survivors can visit one of 14 Disaster Recovery Centers** operating in Charlotte, Collier, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee (2 centers), Orange, Osceola, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns and Volusia counties. More centers are planned to open in the coming days. Interpretation services and translated materials are available at these centers to help survivors communicate in the language with which they feel most comfortable. Disaster Recovery Center locations are chosen for their accessibility, with the goal of reaching as many people as possible. As centers are added, real-time locations will be updated at [FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.fema.gov/florida-disaster).
- **FEMA will pay hotel and motel costs for eligible survivors.** FEMA and the state of Florida activated the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program, which allows FEMA to make payments directly to participating hotels and motels in



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Alabama, Florida and Georgia that provide emergency shelter to survivors. As of today, the program is providing housing for **1,081** households with **2,754** members.

- **Hundreds of FEMA inspectors** have performed over **65,500** home inspections for survivors who applied for federal disaster assistance.
- **The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved \$52.6 million in low-interest disaster loans** to homeowners, renters and business owners. Business Recovery Centers are located in Collier, DeSoto, Hillsborough, Lee and Seminole counties.
- **As of Oct. 15, FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has received more than 38,000 flood insurance claims and paid more than \$65 million to policyholders, including \$47 million in advance payments.**
- **NFIP policyholders may receive up to \$1,000** to reimburse the purchase of supplies like sandbags, plastic sheeting and lumber. They may also receive up to \$1,000 in storage expenses if they moved insured property. Policyholders should file a claim for flood loss avoidance reimbursement, regardless of if it was successful in preventing flood damage.
- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to eligible survivors.** Floridians can file a claim for loss of income caused by Hurricane Ian by going to [Disaster Unemployment Assistance - FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org) and selecting "Apply for Hurricane Ian DUA," visiting a [local CareerSource Career Center](#), or calling **800-385-3920**. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET.
- **Low-income Florida residents recovering from Hurricane Ian may be eligible for assistance from the Department of Agriculture's Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).** Survivors can find more information on Florida's D-SNAP program by visiting the Florida Department of Children and Families' [Hurricane Ian Response & Recovery](#) website.
- **Operation Blue Roof has installed 907 roofs.** This is a free service provided to homeowners and is currently operating in Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Lee and Sarasota counties. Residents impacted by Hurricane Ian can sign up at [BlueRoof.us](https://www.blueroof.us) or call toll-free at 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258) for more information. The call center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
- **National Flood Insurance Program Florida policyholders who had flood damage from the hurricane now have a 90-day window to renew their policies.** The extension applies to policies with renewal dates beginning Aug. 25, through Oct. 23. Policyholders whose policy renewal date is in this range



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should contact their agent or insurance company. FEMA also extended the proof of loss requirement for flood insurance policyholders in Florida who experienced flood damage from Hurricane Ian from 60 to 365 days. For more information on how to file a flood insurance claim, visit [How to Start Your Flood Insurance Claim](#).

- **FEMA approved Critical Needs Assistance for disaster survivors with immediate or critical needs because they are displaced from their primary dwelling.** Immediate or critical needs are life-saving and life-sustaining items. This assistance is a one-time payment of **\$700 per household**.
- If you or a member of your household uses adaptive or accessibility items that were damaged by Hurricane Ian, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance for those items. For homeowners, items can include an exterior ramp, grab bars and a paved pathway to the home's entrance from a vehicle. Awards do not count toward your Housing Assistance or Personal Property maximum awards. For more information for homeowners and renters, visit [Update to FEMA's Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).



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