

Citizenship and Immigration Status Requirements for FEMA Assistance

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FRANKFORT, Ky. – FEMA may provide direct and financial disaster assistance to U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals and qualified non-citizens who were impacted by the May 21-27 severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides. Disaster assistance may include money for temporary rental assistance, home repairs, personal property loss, medical expenses, funeral expenses and other serious disaster-related needs or expenses not covered by insurance or other sources.

A non-citizen national is defined as a person in an outlying possession of the U.S. (i.e., American Samoa or Swain’s Island) on or after the date the U.S. acquired possession, or a person whose parents are U.S. non-citizen nationals. All U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals, but not every U.S. national is a citizen.

A qualified non-citizen includes:

- Legal permanent residents (“green card” holders);
- Non-citizens granted asylum;
- Refugees;
- Non-citizens whose deportation status is being withheld for at least one year;
- Non-citizens paroled into the U.S. for at least one year for urgent humanitarian purposes or significant public benefit;
- Cuban/Haitian entrants;
- Certain battered non-citizens or their spouses or children and
- Certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking, including persons with a “T” or “U” visa.

If an applicant does not meet the required citizenship or immigration status at the time of application, the household may still apply for certain forms of federal assistance if:



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Page 1 of 2

- 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 at the time the disaster occurred.

All individuals, regardless of citizenship and immigration status, affected by a major disaster may be eligible for crisis counseling assistance, disaster legal services, disaster case management, disaster supplemental nutrition assistance program and other non-monetary, in-kind emergency disaster-relief programs. These include medical care, shelter, food and water.

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 Sept. 22, 2024.

Homeowners, renters, businesses, and nonprofit organizations can apply for long-term, low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website sba.gov/disaster.

For the latest information on Kentucky's recovery from the May 21-27 severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, landslides and mudslides, as well as news releases, fact sheets and other helpful documents in multiple languages, please visit fema.gov/disaster/4804. Follow FEMA at x.com/femaregion4 and facebook.com/fema.

To view information about how to apply for FEMA disaster assistance in American Sign Language and a voiceover, please check the [YouTube link](#).

