

How to Get Serious Needs Assistance

FEMA can help people get back on their feet by providing flexible, up-front funding immediately following a disaster.

Serious Needs Assistance is a \$750* direct payment helps eligible households pay for essential items like, food, water, baby formula, medication and other emergency supplies. This payment is in addition to other funding FEMA may provide survivors based on their unique circumstances.

NATHAN'S STORY:

The Scenario

A tornado forced Nathan and his daughter to evacuate to the community safe room quickly, leaving him no time to pack a long-term supply of insulin for his daughter and other needed medications. He has been staying at a shelter while the mandatory evacuation notice remains active in his area.

The Process

While at the shelter, Nathan learned about FEMA assistance, and decided to apply – answering questions to explain his situation.

The Result

FEMA determined that Nathan was eligible for Serious Needs Assistance, resulting in an immediate \$750* in Nathan's pocket to pay for his daughter's medications and special food for her diet that the shelter didn't have.



Name: Nathan

Age: 33

Location: The Reservation of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Disaster: Tornado

Job: Public School Teacher

Family: Single with child

Home: Renter

Renter Insurance: Yes

Flood Insurance: Yes



The above story uses fictional characters and events to help explain the disaster assistance process for disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024. If you live in an individual assistance area and want to learn more about how FEMA can help you, call [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362), visit disasterassistance.gov or [download the FEMA app](#) to apply for FEMA assistance.

**The amount of money is for Fiscal Year 2024, and is subject to change with each new fiscal year.*

To learn more about FEMA's disaster assistance programs, please visit: fema.gov/ia



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