

How to Request a Late Application for FEMA Assistance

Typically, survivors have 60 days to apply for FEMA assistance, however there are many reasonable circumstances that would keep someone from being able to apply in that time frame.

FEMA offers a simple process to justify a late application, ensuring eligible people receive the help they need, even if it takes them longer to apply. A late application can be requested in person at a Disaster Recovery Center, in writing, or over the phone by calling 800-621-3362.

FRANK'S STORY:



Name: Frank

Age: 43

Location: Oklahoma

Disaster: Tornado

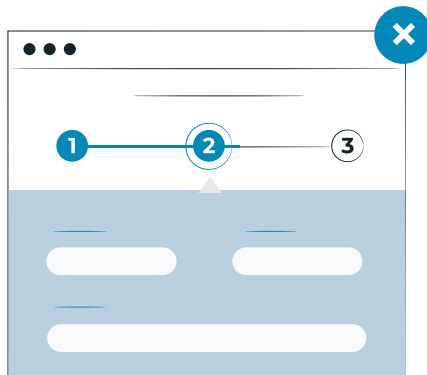
Job: Accountant,
U.S. Navy reservist

Family: Married, no children

Home: Owner

Home Insurance: No

Flood insurance: No



The Scenario

While Frank was overseas for military duty, a tree fell on his home during a tornado causing significant damage. Given his military deployment, he was unable to apply for assistance before the deadline. Even though Frank missed the initial deadline, since he was stationed overseas at the time, he has a qualifying reason to request an extension on his application.

The Process

He called the FEMA Disaster Assistance Helpline 800-621-3362 and explained his situation. Thanks to FEMA's simple process, he didn't have to provide multiple documents just to prove he was serving overseas. His extension request was granted, and he submitted his application that day.

The Result

Once his late application was reviewed, Frank was deemed eligible for assistance, and received money from FEMA to repair his disaster-damaged home.

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**, visit disasterassistance.gov or [download the FEMA app](#) to apply for FEMA assistance.

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

