

One Week Left to Apply for Federal Disaster Assistance

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Rhode Islanders affected by the severe storms that took place Sept. 10-13, 2023, have until **March 7** to apply for federal disaster assistance. FEMA assistance can provide grants for home repair and other essential disaster-related expenses.

As of February 28, more than **\$3.2 million** in federal assistance has been approved. This total includes:

- **\$2,362,240** in FEMA Assistance
- **\$2,245,793** for Housing Assistance
- **\$116,446** for Other Needs Assistance
- **\$851,000** approved for long-term, low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations to repair, rebuild or replace disaster-damaged physical property and cover economic injury.

To apply to FEMA, visit DisasterAssistance.gov, download the [FEMA App](#) or call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362**. Language translation services are available. If you use a relay service such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service when you apply. FEMA specialists will still be available at the hotline after the application deadline to answer questions.

Residents who would like to apply in person can visit the Disaster Recovery Center in Johnston, where disaster recovery specialists can also answer questions, help upload documents and refer you to available resources. The address of the Johnston center is:

Johnston Senior Center

1291 Hartford Avenue



FEMA

Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

Hours of Operation: **Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday- CLOSED.**

The center will cease operations at the end of day on March 7.

FEMA may refer you to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for a long-term, low-interest disaster loan. SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors. SBA provides these disaster loans to businesses, private nonprofits, homeowners and renters to help them recover. If you are referred to SBA, you are not required to take out a loan, but if you don't fill out the application, you may not be eligible for certain FEMA grants.

Those would like to apply directly to SBA can do so at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) or call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955. Email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to, [youtube.com/watch?v= WZGpWI2RCNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWI2RCNw).

