

Federal Assistance Fuels Puerto Rico's Recovery from Tropical Storm Isaiás

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GUAYNABO, Puerto Rico – More than **\$1.8 million** in federal disaster assistance is helping fuel the recovery of Puerto Rico residents and businesses that suffered damage in Tropical Storm Isaiás from July 29-31.

As of **Nov. 8**, FEMA's Individuals and Households program approved **\$513,834** in Housing Assistance to repair disaster-damaged homes and pay for temporary housing. Another **\$512,767** was approved under FEMA's Other Needs Assistance program, which provides funding for disaster-related expenses and serious needs including medical, dental, transportation, moving and storage expenses.

Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration approved more than **\$819,500** in low-interest disaster loans to **34** homeowners, renters and businesses.

After Puerto Rico received a major disaster declaration for Isaiás on **Sept. 9**, a total of **847** eligible individuals and households in the designated municipalities of **Aguada, Hormigueros, Mayagüez and Rincón** applied for FEMA disaster assistance.

Disaster Legal Services, a partnership between Puerto Rico Legal Services, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, DisasterLegalAid.org and FEMA, received **\$5,000** in FEMA funding for administrative support for volunteer lawyers who assist survivors. The program provides free legal help with various disaster-related problems. Among them: filing FEMA appeal forms, completing insurance claims for doctor and hospital bills, and resolving disputes with home repair contracts and contractors.

As the recovery operation moved forward, FEMA opened four Disaster Recovery Centers in the designated municipalities under COVID-19 safety measures. The **Mayagüez** center remains open until **Nov. 13** for residents to speak to specialists in person and update their applications. [The center will suspend operations](#)



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Wednesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day. As of Nov. 8, there were **1,300** visits to the recovery centers.

The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance and SBA physical damage loan applications was **Nov. 9**. The deadline for businesses to submit economic injury disaster loan applications to SBA is **June 9, 2021**.

FEMA specialists remain on the island to support recovery efforts and are still a phone call away. The **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (FEMA) or (TTY) 800-462-7585** remains open for questions or updates to an application. Press 2 for a Spanish-speaking operator. Lines are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

For more information on Puerto Rico's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4560 and Facebook: www.facebook.com/femapuertorico.

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*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **711** for Video Relay Service. Multilingual operators are available. (Press 2 for Spanish.) TTY call **800-462-7585**.*

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