

FEMA Grants Won't Affect Other Benefits

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BILOXI, Miss. – Applying for federal disaster assistance from FEMA will not affect other federal benefits that Mississippi disaster survivors may receive.

Residents in George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson and Stone counties who register with FEMA may have questions about whether funds from FEMA might cause them to lose other federal payments to which they are entitled.

FEMA disaster grants are not taxable income. Accepting a FEMA grant will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or other federal welfare and entitlement programs.

Disaster grants help survivors pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, essential personal property repairs and replacement, and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other sources.

Survivors can apply for disaster assistance in the following ways:

- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster-assistance).
- Download the FEMA App.
- Call **800-621-3362 (800-462-7585 TTY)**. Multilingual operators are available. The toll-free numbers are open from 6 a.m. to midnight Central Time, seven days a week. Those who use a relay service such as a videophone, InnoCaption or CapTel should provide FEMA with their specific phone number assigned to that service.

The deadline to register with FEMA is **March 1, 2021**.

For an American Sign Language video on this topic, go online to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii7nc94B30c>.



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For more information about Hurricane Zeta recovery in Mississippi, visit the FEMA disaster webpage at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4576> or the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency webpage at <https://www.msema.org/zeta/>.



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