

Federal Assistance for Tornado Survivors Tops \$64 Million

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FRANKFORT, Ky. – Three months after the historic Dec. 10-11 storms and tornadoes ravaged the commonwealth, **more than \$64 million** in federal assistance has been approved for Kentucky homeowners, business owners and renters.

The assistance includes FEMA grants; long-term, low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration; claims paid by FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program as well as federally funded Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

FEMA's temporary housing program for eligible families whose homes were destroyed or left uninhabitable is key to the Kentucky recovery effort. The program, which was offered to eligible survivors in **Caldwell, Graves, Hopkins, Marshall, Muhlenberg and Warren** counties, aims to keep tornado-impacted communities intact.

The program helps families move into safe, clean apartments and mobile homes while the repair and rebuilding work gets underway.

FEMA also works with the commonwealth and its federal, local and non-governmental partners to ensure the families placed in FEMA housing have access to the full range of recovery support services. Meanwhile, survivors in temporary housing are planning for their long-term housing needs.

Homeowners and renters who had damage or losses from the tornadoes have until **Monday, March 14**, to apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

Since the Dec. 12 presidential disaster declaration, federal assistance approved for survivors includes:

- **\$14.4 million** under the FEMA Individuals and Households Program, including:



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- ▪ **\$10.4 million** in housing assistance (including **\$2.1 million** in rental assistance)
- **\$3.9 million** for medical and dental expenses, childcare, moving and storage, and other essential storm-related expenses
- **\$49 million** in SBA disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses
- **\$824,460** approved in Disaster Unemployment Assistance, or funding for Kentuckians who lost their jobs or have been unable to work as a result of the tornadoes. The program is funded by FEMA and operated by The Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance.

More than 6,900 survivors have visited the **18** Disaster Recovery Centers that were operating in **Barren, Caldwell, Christian, Fulton, Graves, Hart, Hickman, Hopkins, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Taylor and Warren** counties. Three recovery centers remain open but even as they make plans to close, residents are reminded to keep in touch with FEMA by calling the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**.

Over the past three months, FEMA's Disaster Survivor Assistance teams interacted with more than **10,000** survivors, helping them apply for FEMA assistance and providing updates on their accounts.

FEMA's Voluntary Agency Liaisons and hundreds of individual volunteers have provided survivors with more than **17,700** meals and answered **909** requests for chainsaws. In addition, volunteers logged more than **37,000 hours** — the equivalent of about 4,500 eight-hour days.

And the work has not ended. Not by a long shot.

Under FEMA's Public Assistance program, commonwealth, county and local governments as well as private nonprofit organizations and houses of worship may be eligible for reimbursement of eligible emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. In all, **116** eligible applicants have filed requests for Public Assistance to cover repairs and rebuilding.

To apply to FEMA, visit DisasterAssistance.gov, use the [FEMA mobile app](#) or call the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**. If you use a relay service such as video relay service (VRS) or captioned telephone service, give FEMA the number for that service. Helpline operators are available from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time



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daily. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

For information on Kentucky's recovery from the tornadoes, visit fema.gov/disaster/4630. Follow FEMA on Twitter at [FEMA Region 4 \(@femaregion4\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/femaregion4) and at facebook.com/fema.

