

# FEMA Expands Efforts to Reach Every Affected Community

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WASHINGTON -- More than \$168 million in federal disaster assistance has gone to Hurricane Ian survivors. FEMA and its state partners are opening more Disaster Recovery Centers, while hundreds of Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) specialists are going door-to-door to help survivors sign up for assistance in affected communities.

## How FEMA is helping Floridians:

- **Twenty counties are now eligible for individual assistance.** Yesterday, FEMA approved the addition of Palm Beach County. Homeowners and renters in Palm Beach County who were affected by Hurricane Ian may apply for FEMA disaster assistance.
- **FEMA opened Disaster Recovery Centers in Orange and Osceola counties.** Along with DSA specialists going door-to-door in Florida neighborhoods, there are now seven centers operating across the state. Disaster Recovery Centers are in Charlotte, Collier, Orange, Osceola and Sarasota counties, with two centers operating in Lee County. More centers are planned to open over the next few days. Centers are accessible offices staffed by state, federal and volunteer organizations that let everyone access recovery information. As centers are added, real-time locations will be updated at [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org).
- **FEMA will pay hotel and motel costs for eligible survivors.** FEMA and the state of Florida activated the Transitional Shelter Assistance Program, which allows FEMA to make payments directly to participating hotels and motels in Alabama, Florida and Georgia that provide emergency shelter to survivors.
- **More than 700 FEMA inspectors are in the field going to homes of survivors who registered for federal disaster assistance.** To date, they have performed over 16,000 inspections.
- **FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is issuing advance payments to help Floridians jumpstart their recovery.** To date, FEMA has paid more than \$17 million to Florida policyholders.



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- **NFIP policyholders may receive up to \$1,000 to reimburse the purchase of supplies like sandbags, plastic sheeting and lumber.** They may also receive up to \$1,000 in storage expenses if they moved insured property. Policyholders should file a claim for flood loss avoidance reimbursement, regardless if it was successful in preventing flood damage.
- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to eligible survivors.** Floridians should file a claim for loss of income caused by Hurricane Ian by going to [Disaster Unemployment Assistance - FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org) and selecting "Apply for Hurricane Ian DUA," visiting a [local CareerSource Career Center](#), or calling **(800) 385-3920**. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET.
- **Thousands of federal staff are supporting Ian response efforts. This includes more than 1,800 staff from other federal agencies.** More than 1,800 emergency management personnel from 26 states were deployed to Florida through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact.
- Yesterday, Operation Blue Roof completed its first roof installation. This is a free service provided to homeowners and is currently operating in Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Lee and Sarasota counties. Residents impacted by Hurricane Ian can sign up at [BlueRoof.us](https://www.bluerroof.us) or call toll-free at **1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258)** for more information. The call center will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.
- National Flood Insurance Program Florida policyholders who had flood damage from the hurricane now have a 90-day window to renew their policies. The extension applies to policies with renewal dates beginning Aug. 25 through Oct. 23. Policyholders whose policy renewal date is in this range should contact their agent or insurance company. FEMA also extended the proof of loss requirement for flood insurance policyholders in Florida who suffered flood damage from Hurricane Ian from 60 to 365 days. For more information on how to file a flood insurance claim, visit [How to Start Your Flood Insurance Claim](#).
- FEMA approved Critical Needs Assistance for disaster survivors with immediate or critical needs because they are displaced from their primary dwelling. Immediate or critical needs are life-saving and life-sustaining items. This assistance is a one-time payment of \$700 per household.
- If you or a member of your household uses adaptive or accessibility items that were damaged by Hurricane Ian, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance for those items. For homeowners, items can include an exterior ramp, grab bars and a paved pathway to the home's entrance from a vehicle. Awards do not count toward your Housing Assistance or Personal Property maximum awards.



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For more information for homeowners and renters, visit [Update to FEMA's Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).

