

Californians Affected by Recent Storms and Flooding Eligible for Rental Assistance

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Residents who cannot live in their homes while repairing damage from the severe storms and flooding that started on Feb. 21, or must find a new place to live, can apply for temporary rental assistance from FEMA. Residents in the disaster designated counties of **Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Tuolumne** may apply.

What to Know about FEMA Rental Assistance:

- **The first two months of rental assistance is provided without having to provide rental receipts.** If a FEMA inspector determines your primary home is uninhabitable, two months of rental assistance may be awarded separately and not included in the home repair grant you receive.
- **If you still need rental assistance after the first two-month period, you must contact FEMA** to fill out an additional form.
- **Extensions on rental assistance may be granted for three-month periods at a time.** Toward the end of three months, you must contact **FEMA’s Helpline** at **800-621-3362** to recertify. Rental assistance is available up to a maximum of 18 months from the date of the FEMA disaster declaration. Applicants must continue to work toward obtaining permanent housing for continued rental assistance.
- **In order to receive continued rental assistance, you must provide:**
 - Receipts or canceled checks or money orders used to pay for rent.
 - Information on your longer term or permanent housing plan.
- **There are two ways to receive the money for rental assistance:**
 - You can choose to have funds electronically transmitted to your bank.
 - Paper checks. If you are no longer receiving mail at your damaged property, provide a current address so you can receive the check.



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- **FEMA's rental assistance includes money for a security deposit and essential utilities, such as electricity and water, but not cable or Internet.** The approved rental amount is based on fair market rates for your area as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- FEMA rental assistance is **NOT** taxable, nor does it have to be paid back.

For more information on rental assistance and to apply, call **FEMA's Helpline at 800-621-3362**. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Helpline operators are available from **4 a.m. to 10 p.m. PT daily**. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

For the latest information on California's recovery from the severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides, visit [FEMA.gov/disaster/4699](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4699). You may also follow twitter.com/Cal_OES, facebook.com/CaliforniaOES, [@FEMARegion9/Twitter](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion9) and [Facebook.com/FEMA](https://facebook.com/FEMA).

