



FAQ's – FEMA

What is FEMA?

FEMA is the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA is responsible for coordinating and providing access to financial assistance programs in the event of a natural disaster. Government assistance programs coordinated by FEMA include: Disaster Housing Assistance, Home Repair Assistance, Small Business Administration loans, Farm Service Agency loans, Cora Brown Fund grants, and Other Needs Assistance.

What does FEMA's disaster housing assistance program cover?

FEMA's disaster housing assistance program is intended to provide financial assistance to pay the cost of temporary housing, housing repairs, housing replacement, and/or replacement of household items.

Am I eligible to obtain disaster housing assistance from FEMA?

To be eligible to receive disaster housing assistance from FEMA you, or someone who lives with you, must be a United States citizen, qualified alien, or non-citizen national, your loss must have occurred at your main place of residence, you must not be insured or be under insured, you must not have an alternative rent-free housing option, and your home must have been damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster.

How do I register with FEMA?

You can register with FEMA at your nearest Local Assistance Center, by calling 1-800-621-FEMA, or by going online to disasterassistance.gov. Keep in mind that you will need to provide certain documentation during registration. To find a list of the necessary documents you can go to disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance/application-checklist.

Are there important deadlines related to the FEMA application process?

Yes. The current deadlines to complete and submit FEMA applications are as follows:

Housing Assistance – December 11, 2017

Home Repair Assistance – December 11, 2017

Other Needs Assistance Programs – December 11, 2017

Small Business Association Loan Program – December 11, 2017

Disaster Unemployment Assistance – November 16, 2017



What can I do if FEMA denied my request for assistance?

If you have received a denial letter, you may appeal FEMA's decision within 60 days of the date of FEMA's decision. Further information regarding the appeals process can be located on your denial letter. If you would like assistance regarding a FEMA denial, please contact Legal Aid of Sonoma County by calling 707-545-1290 or coming to our office located at 144 South E Street, Santa Rosa, CA.

Where can I find more information about FEMA's programs for fire victims?

If you have questions about FEMA you can find more information by going to www.fema.gov or calling 1-800-621-FEMA.