

DISASTER HELP CENTERS

After major disasters, state and federal authorities often set up temporary centers where survivors can go to get in-person assistance with applying for disaster relief. The most common types of these centers are described below. Below we've provided descriptions of the typical resources provided, as well as contact information so you can determine whether services are being provided virtually or in person. You can also call the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative Helpline, (888) 382-3406, to learn more about these types of resources.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Center

A FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is a location where disaster survivors can go for information about FEMA programs and other disaster assistance relief and to ask questions about their situation. Representatives from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), volunteer groups, and other agencies are typically at DRCs to answer questions about disaster assistance, including low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses. They can also help survivors apply for federal disaster assistance. Consult FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers>, to determine if a DRC has been set up near you. You can also find the closest DRC by sending a text to 43362 with the letters DRC and your ZIP Code (standard message and data rates apply).

SBA Business Recovery Center

SBA's Disaster Field Operations Centers are responsible for setting up business recovery centers and disaster loan assistance centers. To find out if SBA has set up a Center near you, check out their website:

<https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-locations/disaster-field-operations-centers>.

Local Assistance Center

Local Assistance Centers (LACs) are typically staffed by representatives from the Employment Development Department and other local, state, and federal agencies, as well as nonprofits and other volunteer organizations. Volunteers assist individuals with applying for, and getting information about, disaster assistance programs and services, including unemployment benefits and payroll tax extensions for employers. In addition to calling the legal hotlines set up for these disasters (such as Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative's Helpline at (888) 382-3406), you can check the following website for current information on the disaster help centers near you:

[California | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/locations/california) <https://www.fema.gov/locations/california>

Even if a county does not provide in-person assistance, many county websites have helpful information.