

You May Be Able to Get Disaster Assistance

FEMA and the state, territory or tribal government may provide direct and financial disaster assistance to U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals and qualified non-citizens.

Disaster assistance may include money for temporary rental assistance, home repairs, personal property loss, medical expenses, funeral expenses and other serious disaster-related needs or expenses not covered by insurance or other sources.



Citizen – Anyone born in the U.S.; a person born outside of the U.S. to at least one U.S. parent; or a naturalized citizen.

Non-Citizen National – A person in an outlying possession of the U.S. (i.e., American Samoa or Swain’s Island) on or after the date the U.S. acquired possession, or a person whose parents are U.S. non-citizen nationals. All U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals, but not every U.S. national is a citizen.



Individuals should consult an immigration expert to verify if they meet the immigration status requirements for FEMA disaster assistance.

A Qualified Non-citizen Includes

- Legal Permanent Residents (“**Green Card**” holders)
- Non-citizens **granted asylum**
- Refugees
- Non-citizens whose **deportation status is being withheld for at least one year**
- Non-citizens paroled into the U.S. for at least **one year for urgent humanitarian purposes or significant public benefit**
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Certain **battered non-citizens or their spouses or children**
- Certain victims of a **severe form of human trafficking, including persons with a “T” or “U” visa**

If an applicant does not meet the citizenship or immigration status at the time of application, the household may still apply for certain forms of federal assistance if:

- The parent or legal guardian of a minor child who is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified non-citizen applies for assistance on behalf of the minor child, so **long as they live in the same household. The parent or legal guardian must apply as the co-applicant, and the minor child must be under age 18 at the time the disaster occurred.**

All individuals, regardless of citizenship and immigration status, affected by a major disaster **may be eligible for crisis counseling assistance, disaster legal services, disaster case management, disaster supplemental nutrition assistance program and other non-monetary, in-kind emergency disaster-relief programs.** These include medical care, shelter, food and water.