

FEMA Assistance Won't Affect Other Benefits

FEMA assistance is not taxable. Applying for disaster assistance will not affect other federal benefits you may receive.

Accepting FEMA funds will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or other federal benefit programs.

Disaster funds help survivors pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, essential personal property replacement, and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other sources.

If you sustained loss from either of the severe storms and flooding that occurred between Dec. 17 – 19, 2023 or Jan. 9-13, 2024, and live in Kent, Providence or Washington counties, FEMA may be able to help.

Ways to Apply to FEMA

There are several ways to apply:

- Visit a Disaster Recover Center. To find a center close to you, go online to: [DRC Locator](#), or text DRC along with your Zip Code to 43362 (Ex: DRC 04074)
- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362**. Help is available in most languages. The Helpline is available daily from **7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET**.
- Go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](#) (also in Spanish).
- Download the FEMA [mobile app](#) (also in Spanish), available at Google Play or the Apple App Store.

To view accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

The deadline to apply is **May 20, 2024**.

For the latest information visit [4765 | FEMA.gov](#) and [4766 | FEMA.gov](#). Follow the FEMA Region 1 account at Twitter [twitter.com/FEMARegion1](#) or the Facebook page at [facebook.com/FEMA](#).



FEMA

For updates on the Rhode Island response and recovery, follow the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency on Twitter at twitter.com/RhodeIslandEMA, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandEMA, or visit www.riema.ri.gov.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, you can call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.

How Public Assistance is Different Than Individual Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may provide two types of assistance following a presidential disaster declaration: Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. Both programs are independent from each other.

Public Assistance provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

- Federal funding is available to eligible entities including state governments, local governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations, such as schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and public utility districts.
- Although funds are awarded to government entities and certain private nonprofits, the Public Assistance program is intended to benefit the public – neighborhoods, cities, counties, and states.
- Public Assistance dollars pay to:
 - clean up disaster-related debris,
 - repair roads and bridges,
 - put utilities and water systems back in order,
 - restore buildings and equipment such as schools, hospitals, and places that provide community services.
- The program also encourages protection of damaged facilities from future incidents by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures.
- Learn more about FEMA’s Public Assistance program at <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public>

Individual Assistance provides direct financial assistance to eligible individuals and families who have sustained losses due to disasters.

- Individuals and households in counties approved for Individual Assistance with uninsured expenses and serious needs may apply for disaster assistance.
- Individual Assistance is intended to meet survivors’ basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts, to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured personal property losses, and medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, along with other serious disaster-related expenses.



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- Learn more about FEMA's Individual Assistance program at fema.gov/assistance/individual.

For the latest information, visit [4765 | FEMA.gov](https://4765.fema.gov) or [4766 | FEMA.gov](https://4766.fema.gov). Follow FEMA on X, formerly known as Twitter, at twitter.com/femaregion1 and at facebook.com/fema.

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FEMA

April 4, 2024

DR-4765-RI DR-4766-RI NR 008

FEMA News Desk: 617-551-0631

FEMA-RhodeIsland-Newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov

News Release

A Disaster Recovery Center Opens in Greenville

CRANSTON, R.I. – The state of Rhode Island and FEMA have opened a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Greenville in Providence County to help Rhode Island residents affected by the severe storms and flooding that took place from **December 17-19, 2023**, and **January 9-13, 2024**. At the center, survivors will be able to apply for FEMA assistance, upload documents and get answers to questions in person.

Other sites may be opening soon.

The DRC is located at the following address:

**William Windsor Elementary School
562 Putnam Pike
Greenville, RI 02828**

Hours of operation for all centers are: 8 a.m.– 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Sundays.

Survivors can visit any open center; they don't have to visit their local center.

The other current sites are:

Coventry Town Hall Annex
1675 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

Curtis Corner Middle School
301 Curtis Corner Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration will also be at the center to explain how to apply for SBA's low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses, and private nonprofits.

All centers are accessible to people with disabilities and access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology equipment. If you need a reasonable accommodation or sign language interpreter, please let a FEMA specialist at the center know.

We anticipate additional centers opening in the affected areas soon. To find a DRC that is convenient for you, you can go to [DRC Locator \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/drc-locator)

Residents don't need to visit a DRC to apply for FEMA assistance. Survivors can register with FEMA in one of the following ways:

- Call **1-800-621-3362**. Phone lines operate from **7 a.m. to 1 a.m.** seven days a week. Help is available in most languages. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.
- Download the [FEMA Mobile App](#). (also in Spanish), available at Google Play or the Apple App Store
- Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) (also in Spanish).

For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to, [youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWI2RCNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZGpWI2RCNw).

For the latest information visit [4765 | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/4765) or [4766 | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/4766). Follow FEMA on X, formerly known as Twitter, at twitter.com/femaregion1 and at [facebook.com/fema](https://www.facebook.com/fema).

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FEMA

March 26, 2024

DR-4765/4766-RI NR-003

Region 1 News Desk: 617-551-0631 | FEMA-R1-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov

News Release

Disaster Assistance Teams Meeting Survivors Where They Are

PROVIDENCE, R.I.– Sometimes, after a disaster, applying for FEMA assistance can be a challenge. Disaster Recovery Centers are not always convenient, bad internet connection prevents using DisasterAssistance.gov, or there are long holds on the FEMA Helpline.

To ensure survivors can apply for assistance, FEMA sends teams of Disaster Survivor Assistants into many neighborhoods affected by a disaster, often going door-to-door to assist survivors.

These teams will be easily recognizable by their official photo identification. If you meet people offering assistance, first ask to see their ID before giving any personal information. They may have FEMA clothing, but that can be easily faked.

They are there helping you and your neighbors apply for assistance and providing other information to get your recovery started. Representatives are also available for Town Hall meetings and Community Events upon request.

There are several ways to apply:

- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362**. Help is available in most languages. The Helpline is available daily from **7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET**.
- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov (also in Spanish).
- Download the FEMA [mobile app](#) (also in Spanish), available at Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Disaster assistance may provide temporary help and a place to stay while you build your recovery plan. Although the federal government cannot make you whole, it may be able to help your recovery move forward by providing grants for basic repairs to make your home safe, accessible and secure.

For the latest information visit [4765 | FEMA.gov](#) and [4766 | FEMA.gov](#). Follow the FEMA Region 1 account at Twitter twitter.com/FEMARegion1 or the Facebook page at facebook.com/FEMA.

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FEMA

April 1, 2024

DR-4765/4766-RI NR-007

Region 1 News Desk: 617-551-0631 | FEMA-R1-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov

News Release

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

CRANSTON, R.I. – Survivors who applied for assistance from FEMA for the December 17-19, 2023, or January 9-13, 2024, flooding and severe storms, will receive a determination letter from FEMA explaining the status of their application. If the applicant is found eligible for assistance, the letter will explain the amount of assistance FEMA approved and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

If the applicant is found ineligible, please read the letter carefully and entirely as it will explain the reasons for the ineligibility and what may be needed to submit with an appeal letter for reconsideration. In some circumstances, the survivor may only need to submit additional information or supporting documentation for FEMA to continue processing the application.

. Examples of missing documentation may include:

- Proof of insurance coverage
- Settlement of insurance claims or denial letter from insurance provider
- Proof of identity
- Proof of occupancy
- Proof of ownership
- Proof that the damaged property was the applicant's primary residence at the time of the disaster.

Questions about your letter can be answered by calling the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362. You may also visit your nearest Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). For information on open DRCs, and DRC hours you can visit our DRC Locator page at: fema.gov/drc. Search by state and select Rhode Island.

Appealing FEMA's Decision

Survivors may submit an appeal letter and documents supporting their claim, such as a contractor's estimate for home repairs, or missing documents as described in the determination letter for additional consideration.

FEMA cannot duplicate assistance provided by another source, such as insurance settlements. Survivors who are underinsured may receive additional assistance for unmet needs after insurance claims have been settled.

The appeal must be in writing. In a signed and dated letter, explain the reason(s) for the appeal. It should include:

- Applicant's full name
- Disaster number (DR-4765 for the severe storm and flooding from Dec. 17-19, 2023 or DR-4766 for the severe storm and flooding from Jan. 9-13, 2024.)
- Address of the pre-disaster primary residence
- Applicant's current phone number and address
- The FEMA application number on all documents

If you choose to have a third party submit an appeal letter on your behalf, the appeal letter must be signed by the third party. Additionally, please include a statement signed by you authorizing the third party to appeal on your behalf.

Appeal letters must be postmarked within 60 days of the date of the determination letter. Letters and supporting documents may be submitted to FEMA by fax, mail or via a FEMA online account. To set up an online account, visit DisasterAssistance.gov, click on "Apply Online" and follow the directions.

By mail: FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville MD 20782-7055

By fax: 800-827-8112 Attention: FEMA

You may also visit your nearest Disaster Recovery Center to submit your appeal.

For an accessible video on the FEMA eligibility letter, visit [FEMA Accessible: Understanding Your Letter - YouTube](#).

For the latest information visit [4765 | FEMA.gov](https://4765.FEMA.gov) and [4766 | FEMA.gov](https://4766.FEMA.gov). Follow the FEMA Region 1 account at Twitter twitter.com/FEMARegion1 or the Facebook page at facebook.com/FEMA.

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