

# Individual Assistance vs Public Assistance

FEMA may provide two types of assistance following a presidential disaster declaration: Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. The two programs are funded independently from each other and are intended to benefit individuals and communities in different ways.



**4 WAYS**  
to contact FEMA  
to apply for assistance:

- Call FEMA**  
Toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362) to register and apply for assistance or check your application status.
- Smartphone Application**  
Help After a Disaster: FEMA Individual Assistance Can Help You Recover | [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)
- Apply to FEMA in Person**  
Find your nearest location at [DRC Locator \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)
- Online**  
[How to Set Up a FEMA Online Account](https://www.fema.gov)

## INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

The **Individual Assistance (IA) grant program** provides financial assistance to applicants with disaster damage that did not cause their home to be unlivable, to clean and sanitize their home to help prevent additional losses, and to protect the health and safety of the household. Eligible child care expenses include standard child care service fees (i.e., the cost that is established in a contract between the child care provider and the applicant), child care registration fees and health inventory fees are eligible expenses for applicants who require a new child care service provider. To benefit from this program, you must submit an application.

For  
Parents/Guardians

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

For Child Care  
Providers

If your facility can stay open and offer child care services to families during emergency sheltering, your state, local, or tribal government might cover your costs through the **Public Assistance (PA) grant program**. This program can reimburse expenses related to providing child care services, including operational costs like labor, supplies, and commodities. This financial support offers child care providers a valuable opportunity to maintain cash flow during emergencies. To benefit from this program, you must submit an application.