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State News Desk: 916-845-8434
FEMA News Desk: 916-837-8270

News Release

Private Nonprofits, including Houses of Worship, Eligible for Disaster Assistance

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Private nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship and other faith-based organizations, may be eligible to apply for FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) program to help recover from damage in the California counties affected by the severe winter storms and flooding in February and March. These counties include: **Alpine, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, Sierra, Trinity, Tulare and Tuolumne.**

Funding from FEMA’s PA program can be used to reimburse state and local governments and certain nonprofits for the cost of emergency protective measures, debris removal and restoring disaster-damaged roads, bridges and public facilities.

Private nonprofits that provide **critical services**, such as hospitals and other medical treatment facilities and utilities can apply directly to FEMA. Other examples of critical services include water, sewer and electrical systems; private schools that provide elementary or secondary education or institutions of higher education.

Private nonprofits that provide **non-critical, essential social services**, such as senior citizen and community centers **must wait to see if they are eligible for a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration first.** Other examples of non-critical, essential services include educational enrichment activities, custodial and day care services, disability residential services, assisted living and low-income housing, homeless shelters and rehabilitation services and performing and community arts centers.

Houses of Worship owned and operated by a nonprofit are considered non-critical essential services and may receive FEMA PA grants if they also apply for a **low-interest disaster loan from the SBA.** Like other non-critical private nonprofits, if they are eligible for a loan and decline, they will not be entitled to FEMA grants. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits from other agencies or organizations. If they are denied a loan or it does not cover the cost of all repairs, FEMA may provide funding to cover what SBA does not.

SBA’s can provide as much as \$2 million in loans for damaged real estate and the replacement of property. The interest rate is 2.375 percent with terms up to 30 years.

All applicants are encouraged to make a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) as soon as possible by contacting their local emergency management office. The deadline to file an RPA is 30 days from the date of the federal declaration. To file a Request for Public Assistance or for more information, email:

DisasterRecovery@CalOES.CA.gov

The deadline to file a Request for Public Assistance in **Calaveras, Los Angeles, Monterey and Tulare** counties is **May 3, 2023**.

The deadline to file a Request for Public Assistance in **Alpine, Fresno, Kings, Merced, Sierra, Trinity, Kern, Mariposa, San Benito and Tuolumne** counties is **May 14, 2023**.

The deadline to apply to SBA for property damage is **June 2, 2023**. The deadline to apply for economic injury is **Jan. 3, 2024**.

Applicants should make sure to file a Request for Public Assistance to get into the Public Assistance system by the deadline even if they have to apply for an SBA loan and wait for a determination.

For the latest information on California's recovery from the severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides, visit [FEMA.gov/disaster/4699](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4699). You may also follow twitter.com/Cal_OES, facebook.com/CaliforniaOES, [@FEMARegion9/Twitter](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion9) and [Facebook.com/FEMA](https://facebook.com/FEMA).

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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 or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.

*Recently, U.S. SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman [announced a policy change](#) **granting 12 months of no payments and 0% interest**. This pertains to all disaster loans approved in response to disasters declared on or after September 21, 2022, through September 30, 2023. This policy change will benefit disaster survivors and help them to decrease the overall cost of recovery by reducing the amount of accrued interest they must repay.*

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of funds for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private, nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters, fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at [Disaster Loan Assistance](#).

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services.