



May 19, 2023
DR-4699-CA NR-020
State News Desk: 916-845-8434
FEMA News Desk: 916-837-8270

News Release

Californians Affected by Recent Storms and Flooding Eligible for Rental Assistance

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Residents who cannot live in their homes while repairing damage from the severe storms and flooding that started on Feb. 21, or must find a new place to live, can apply for temporary rental assistance from FEMA. Residents in the disaster designated counties of **Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Tuolumne** may apply.

What to Know about FEMA Rental Assistance:

- **The first two months of rental assistance is provided without having to provide rental receipts.** If a FEMA inspector determines your primary home is uninhabitable, two months of rental assistance—may be awarded separately and not included in the home repair grant you receive.
- **If you still need rental assistance after the first two-month period, you must contact FEMA** to fill out an additional form.
- **Extensions on rental assistance may be granted for three-month periods at a time.** Toward the end of three months, you must contact **FEMA’s Helpline at 800-621-3362** to recertify. Rental assistance is available up to a maximum of 18 months from the date of the FEMA disaster declaration. Applicants must continue to work toward obtaining permanent housing for continued rental assistance.
- **In order to receive continued rental assistance, you must provide:**
 - Receipts or canceled checks or money orders used to pay for rent.
 - Information on your longer term or permanent housing plan.
- **There are two ways to receive the money for rental assistance:**
 - You can choose to have funds electronically transmitted to your bank.
 - Paper checks. If you are no longer receiving mail at your damaged property, provide a current address so you can receive the check.
- **FEMA’s rental assistance includes money for a security deposit and essential utilities, such as electricity and water, but not cable or Internet.** The approved rental amount is based on fair market rates for your area as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- FEMA rental assistance is **NOT** taxable, nor does it have to be paid back.

For more information on rental assistance and to apply, call **FEMA's Helpline** at **800-621-3362**. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Helpline operators are available from **4 a.m. to 10 p.m. PT daily**. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

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 <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>. 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.