

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 aliens.

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



Citizen – A person born in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Northern Mariana Islands; a person born outside of the U.S. to at least one U.S. parent or a naturalized citizen.

Non-Citizen National – A person born 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 the 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 U.S. citizen.

A qualified alien generally includes:

- Individuals who are Lawful Permanent Residents (“Green Card” holders)
- Asylees, refugees, or aliens whose deportation status is being withheld
- Aliens paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Aliens granted conditional entry (per law in effect prior to April 1, 1980)
- Cuban/Haitian entrant
- Certain aliens subjected to extreme cruelty or have been a victim 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 IHP assistance if:

- Another household member, including a minor child, meets the eligibility criteria during the registration process
- The parent or guardian of a minor child living in the same household may apply for assistance on behalf of the minor child who is a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien. The minor child must be under age 18 as of the first day of the incident period or disaster declaration day, whichever comes first



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