

FEMA Assistance Won't Affect Other Benefits

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If you were affected by Hurricane Helene, FEMA urges you to apply for disaster assistance without hesitation, as it 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.

FEMA assistance, including Serious Needs Assistance, is not a loan. Eligible Hurricane Helene survivors don't need to pay back the grant received from FEMA. Only in rare cases, you may be required to return funds if you receive duplicate benefits from insurance or a grant from another source.

Also, FEMA assistance is not taxable.

FEMA 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.

Homeowners and renters in Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Cherokee, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Kershaw, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union and York counties and the Catawba Indian Nation can apply for federal assistance.

The quickest way to apply is to go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster). To get in-person assistance, you can visit any Disaster Recovery Center. To find a center close to you, please go to [fema.gov/drc](https://www.fema.gov/drc) or text "DRC" and a Zip Code to 43362.

You can also apply using the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices or calling toll-free **800-621-3362**. The telephone line is open every day. Help is available in many languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

For a video with American Sign Language, voiceover and open captions about how to apply for FEMA assistance, select [this link](#). FEMA programs are accessible to survivors with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

For the latest information about South Carolina's recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4829.

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FEMA

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

FEMA is committed to ensuring disaster assistance is accomplished equitably, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Any disaster survivor or member of the public may contact the FEMA Office of Civil Rights if they feel that they have a complaint of discrimination. FEMA's Office of Civil Rights can be contacted at FEMA-OCR@fema.dhs.gov or toll-free at 833-285-7448.