

FEMA Grants Won't Affect Social Security, Other Federal Benefits

Applying for federal disaster assistance from FEMA will not affect federal benefits that Michigan survivors of the Aug. 24-26, 2023, severe storms, tornadoes and flooding may receive. Residents in Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties who apply to FEMA may have questions about whether funds from FEMA might cause them to lose other federal payments to which they are entitled.

FEMA Grants are not Taxable Income

Accepting a FEMA grant will not affect your eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and other federal welfare and entitlement programs.

How the Grants May Help Survivors

Disaster grants help you pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, essential personal property replacement and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by your insurance or other sources.

- “Housing Assistance” covers repairs to the structural parts of your primary residence. This includes windows, doors, floors, walls, ceilings, cabinets, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems (HVACs), utilities (electrical, plumbing and gas systems), and entrance/exit ways. FEMA may also reimburse you for repairing or replacing your furnace, well and septic system.
- “Other Needs Assistance” may reimburse both homeowners and renters for uninsured or underinsured out-of-pocket expenses related to the Aug. 24-26, 2023, severe storms, tornadoes and flooding, such as:
 - Medical and dental expenses; funeral and burial costs; cleaning, or replacement of clothing, household furniture and appliances; specialized tools used for your occupation; childcare, educational materials, moving, storage and other necessary expenses related to the August storms.
 - Your personally owned and registered disaster-damaged cars and trucks may also be eligible for repair or replacement by FEMA.



FEMA

How to Apply to FEMA

To be eligible for any FEMA Individual Assistance program, you must apply to FEMA. Apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov, download the [FEMA mobile app](#) for mobile devices, or call toll-free 800-621-3362. The helpline is open, and help is available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Multilingual operators are available. If you use a relay service such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.

The deadline to apply for assistance is Monday, April 8, 2024.

For more information about the disaster recovery operation in Michigan, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4757.

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FEMA does not treat people differently because of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. FEMA provides free aids and services to people to help them communicate with us and understand FEMA programs:

- *Information available in Braille, large print, or audio.*
- *Information available in accessible electronic formats on FEMA's website.*
- *Qualified sign language interpreters.*
- *Qualified multilingual interpreters.*
- *Information written in other languages.*

If you need assistance to access a FEMA program or service or a program or service funded by FEMA or want to report a concern or complaint of discrimination, please contact FEMA at (833) 285-7448 [Press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish, 3 for the Language Line] or email FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov.