

Hurricane Ian Recovery

Dec. 8, 2022

CONTENT: [What's News?](#) | [By the Numbers](#) | [Latest Headlines](#) | [More Information](#)

What's News?

Deadline to Request for Public Assistance Extended to Jan. 6, 2023

State and local governments, community, and volunteer organizations affected by Hurricane Ian have until Jan. 6, 2023, to submit their requests to the state for public assistance.

FEMA Direct Housing Assistance in Seven Counties

- FEMA is providing direct temporary housing assistance in seven counties in Florida: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Lee, Sarasota and Volusia,
- This assistance includes direct lease of residential properties, repair of existing vacant multi-family properties for use by survivors, and travel trailers or manufactured housing units.

More Applicants Qualified as More Types of Documents Accepted

- FEMA now accepts more types of documents to verify ownership and occupancy, and also accepts documents from a wider range of dates.
- Additional 11,600 survivors of Hurricane Ian have received more than \$140 million in assistance that they otherwise would not have been eligible to get.

Advance Payment in National Flooding Insurance Program

Contact your flooding insurance agent or company to see if you can receive an advance payment to help jumpstart your recovery.

- Policyholders of National Flooding Insurance Program affected by Hurricane Ian may receive \$5,000-\$20,000 with documentation, before an adjuster visits.
- If you don't know who your insurance agent or company is, you may call 877-336-2627.
- NFIP estimates that it had paid \$236 million in advance payments, as of Dec. 4.



FEMA



SBA Waives Interest Rate for First Year on New Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration will waive the interest rate for the first year on new disaster loans and extend the initial payment deferment period automatically to 12 months.

By the Numbers

- **\$3.45 billion** in federal grants, disaster loans and flood insurance payments
- **\$802 million** in FEMA Individual Assistance approved for **360,358** households
- **\$1.2 billion** in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans approved
- **44,900** National Flood Insurance Program claims filed in Florida: **\$1.05 billion** paid
- **\$401 million** in FEMA Public Assistance approved for emergency response costs
- **1,592 households (3,844 members)** checked into hotel rooms under FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance for households
- **20,119** Blue Roofs installed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Mission completed)

Latest Headlines

One Disaster Recovery Center in Lee County Temporarily Closing on Dec. 13

- The disaster recovery center at the Estero Council Chambers, 9401 Corkscrew Palms Circle Estero, Lee County, Florida, will be closed on Dec. 13, because of a previously scheduled event.
- Other than Dec. 13, this center is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Sundays.

FEMA Mitigation Funds to Help Rebuild Stronger

Homeowners who are eligible for Individuals and Households Program assistance may receive additional mitigation funds from FEMA to reduce damage losses. Specific mitigation measures may include:

- Roof repair to withstand higher winds and help prevent water infiltration.
- Elevating a water heater or furnace to avoid future flood damage.
- Elevating or moving an electrical panel to avoid future flood damage.

FEMA Speaks Your Language

If you speak little or no English, you will be shown a language identification guide with the phrase “I Speak ...” in many languages. You can point to the language you understand, and the FEMA representative can connect to an interpreter who speaks your language.

Deadline to Apply for FEMA Assistance Extended

At the request of the state of Florida, FEMA has extended the deadline for Hurricane Ian survivors to apply for assistance to Jan. 12, 2023. Homeowners and renters in the following counties can apply: Brevard, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

Public Assistance for Houses of Worship

Florida houses of worship and other private nonprofit organizations may be eligible for FEMA assistance to help pay for emergency protective measures, debris removal and restoration of facilities damaged by Hurricane Ian. Houses of worship should contact their county emergency management office for more information on how to submit a FEMA request for Public Assistance.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

If a FEMA inspector visits your home but you have not applied for FEMA assistance, or if you receive a letter from FEMA without submitting your FEMA application, you may be a victim of identity theft. If so, please inform the FEMA inspector or call FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 to stop the application process. If you suspect identity theft, please visit [Identity Theft | FTC Consumer Information](#) or [IdentityTheft.gov](#).

Derelict Vessel Waiver Process

If your boat is unsalvageable after Hurricane Ian, consider releasing ownership through the vessel waiver process. This allows for the removal and destruction of the vessel for no cost. Since many residents are still assessing damages, the waiver acceptance deadline has been extended from through the end of the year. Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Hurricane Ian Vessel Hotline at 850-488-5600 for more information.

Free Rebuilding Advice

FEMA specialists are offering tips on building back stronger at these locations:

- Home Depot, 4040 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL 33781. Hours: Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Home Depot, 11941 Bonita Beach Rd. SE, Bonita Springs, FL 34135. Hours: Sunday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday–Saturday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

To talk with a FEMA Mitigation specialist, call 833-336-2487, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday

Hurricane Nicole

Residents in areas affected by Hurricane Nicole should follow directions from local authorities concerning cleanup and safety after the storm. If you had damage from Hurricane Nicole, contact your insurance company, take pictures of the damage, begin clean-up, and save your receipts. Hurricane Nicole has not received a major disaster declaration at this time, and FEMA is not accepting applications for assistance related to Nicole. If you need assistance for loss resulting from Nicole, you can contact community-based services such as 211, the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and others. For emergency information regarding Nicole, visit floridadisaster.org/info/nicole.

Substantial Damage Determinations

Local community officials are required to inspect disaster-damaged structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas to meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code and the community's floodplain management regulations. If the cost of repairing the structure to its condition before Hurricane Ian is 50 percent or more of its pre-disaster market value, the house or building is considered "substantially damaged." FEMA does not make substantial damage determinations; the determination is made by a community's building official or floodplain manager. Repairing a structure in a floodplain requires a permit. Survivors have options to bring the structure into compliance with the Florida Building Code and the community's floodplain management regulations.

Temporary Housing for Survivors

FEMA is providing grants for basic repairs to homes damaged by the storm, rental assistance for those who can't remain in their homes and hotel stays for survivors who can't find a place to rent. This support is available in all 26 counties approved for FEMA Individual Assistance.

FEMA Is Hiring

FEMA is conducting local hiring for more than 300 jobs in Brandon, Fort Myers, Kissimmee, Orlando and Sarasota. The agency is seeking people with experience in customer service, logistics, environmental protection, engineering, emergency management and other job categories. These positions are full-time, 120-day appointments that may be extended depending on operational needs. How to apply: Apply online through USAJobs.gov.

Mold Cleanup

- [Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters | Mold | CDC](#)
- [Guía del propietario y arrendatario para la limpieza de moho \(hongos\) después de desastres | Mold | CDC](#)

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

There are several ways to apply: 1) DisasterAssistance.gov, 2) download the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices, 3) call toll-free 800-621-3362. The line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET. Help is available in most languages. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

Flood Insurance Policyholders Given Additional Time to Renew

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders in Florida affected by Hurricane Ian can renew their recently expired policies without the consequence of a lapse in coverage. The renewal extension applies to policyholders whose flood insurance policy expiration was between Aug. 25 and Oct. 23. FEMA has also extended the proof of loss requirement for Florida flood insurance policyholders who experienced flood damage from Hurricane Ian from 60 to 365 days. Contact your insurance agent or insurance company to discuss your policy. If you do not have this information, call the NFIP at 877-336-2627.

SBA Loans Can Help Your Recovery

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved \$1.2 billion in federal disaster loans to survivors impacted by Hurricane Ian. The deadline to apply for physical disaster loans from SBA has been extended to Jan. 12, 2023. Long-term, low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations from SBA are available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply via the SBA's secure [website](#). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling SBA customer service center at 800-659-2955. Business Recovery Centers are operating in impacted areas.

More Information



- DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov (800-985-5990)
- IanDebrisCleanup.com
- [How to Appeal FEMA's Decision](#)
- [Locate a Disaster Recovery Center](#)
- [Understanding Your FEMA Letter | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Privately-owned Access Routes | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Personal Property and FEMA Assistance | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Damaged Wells and Septic Systems | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Verifying Home Ownership or Occupancy | FEMA.gov](#)
- [It's Important to Submit an SBA Loan Application | FEMA.gov |](#)
- [Critical Needs Assistance | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Clean and Sanitize Assistance](#)
- [Disaster Unemployment Assistance - FloridaJobs.org](#) (800-385-3920)
- [Disaster Legal Assistance](#) (866-550-2929)
- [Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#)

###