

Hurricane Ian Recovery

Nov. 23, 2022

Disaster Recovery Centers Close for Thanksgiving Holiday

All Disaster Recovery Centers in Florida for Hurricane Ian will close for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend from Thursday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 27. Centers will reopen at their regular hours Monday, Nov. 28.

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 Nov. 15 through the end of the year. Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Hurricane Ian Vessel Hotline at 850-488-5600 for more information.

By the Numbers

- **\$2.84 billion** in federal grants, disaster loans and flood insurance payments
 - **\$760 million** in FEMA Individual Assistance approved for **350,138** households
 - **\$1 billion** in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans approved
 - **44,600** National Flood Insurance Program claims filed in Florida: **\$720 million** paid
 - **\$351 million** in FEMA Public Assistance approved for emergency response costs
- **1,745 households (4,300 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)

Deadline to Apply for FEMA Assistance Extended to Jan. 12

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.



FEMA



SBA Disaster Assistance Loan

As of today, the U.S. Small Business Administration has approved more than \$1 billion in federal disaster loans to survivors impacted by Hurricane Ian. SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors to pay for repair or replacement costs not fully compensated by insurance or other compensation. SBA offers long-term, low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, as well as homeowners and renters.

The deadline to apply for physical disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration has been extended to Jan. 12.

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](#).

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., except Thanksgiving Day

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., except Thanksgiving Day

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

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 Hurricane Ian 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.

In Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Lee and Sarasota counties, FEMA is providing Direct Temporary Housing Assistance. This includes direct lease of residential properties, repair of existing vacant multi-family properties for use by survivors, and travel trailers or manufactured housing units. It takes time to transport, permit, install and inspect these temporary housing units.

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](#).

More Information:

[DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov](#) (800-985-5990)

[IanDebrisCleanup.com](#) (850-961-2002)

[Locate a Disaster Recovery Center](#)

[Understanding Your FEMA Letter | FEMA.gov](#)

[How to Appeal FEMA’s Decision | 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](#)

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, 2022. 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**.

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.

U.S. Small Business Administration



Long-term, low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/. Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. Business Recovery Centers are operating in impacted areas. Details at floridadisaster.org/info/.