

FEMA Assistance for Those Unhoused or Residing in Non- Traditional Housing Before the Disaster

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FEMA Assistance is available to disaster survivors the unhoused or those residing in non-traditional housing, such as a tent or lean-to type of home before the disaster.

Assistance Available

FEMA may provide some forms of Other Needs Assistance to applicants the unhoused or those residing in non-traditional housing before the disaster. This may include:

Type of Assistance	What it covers:
Medical &Dental Assistance	Lost medications Medical/dental equipment Treatment for a disaster-caused injury Service animal injury or loss
Transportation Assistance	Disaster-caused damage to a vehicle
Funeral Assistance	Funeral expenses related to the disaster
Childcare Assistance	Increased child care expenses

FEMA does not provide Direct Housing Assistance, Home Repair Assistance, Home Replacement Continued Temporary Rental Assistance to applicants who are unhoused or those residing in non- traditional housing before the disaster.



Additional Assistance for Individuals in Non-traditional Housing

In addition to the assistance listed in the table above, applicants residing in non-traditional housing may also be eligible for:

Type of Assistance	What it covers:
Personal Property Assistance	Bedding, furniture, appliances, and clothing damaged or lost by a disaster
Displacement Assistance	Short-term housing.
Serious Needs Assistance	Food, water, baby formula, breast-feeding supplies, medication, and other emergency supplies
Initial Rental Assistance	Up to 2 months of rental assistance at current Fair Market Rate (FMR).

To be eligible for Personal Property Assistance or Displacement Assistance, applicants must provide a disaster-damaged address as their primary home; FEMA calls this “proving occupancy.”

To prove occupancy, FEMA accepts various documentation that places the applicant at the address at the time of the disaster, including:

- Bills mailed to the applicant’s address
- Federal or State Benefit Document
- Identification Card
- Motor Vehicle Registration
- Social Service Organization Document
- Affidavits of Residency or Court Documentation
- Local School Document
- Employer’s Document

If the applicant does not have access to documentation proving occupancy, they may provide a statement from a public official, member of tribal council, homeless outreach advocate, etc. The statement must be written and



signed, and include the applicant's name, location of residence, dates of occupancy, and the so and contact information.

Application Considerations

When applying for FEMA disaster assistance, the applicant may select "Other" for residence type.

If they apply by phone, they can explain their living situation to the FEMA representative.

Apply for FEMA Individual Assistance

- Online: DisasterAssistance.gov (fastest option)
- FEMA App: available on the Apple App Store or Google Play
- By Phone: 1-800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone, or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

Unhoused is defined as an individual whose pre-disaster living arrangements were transient in nature and void of any form of structural ownership. Examples of unhoused living situations may include rent-free shelters, bridges, underpasses, or streets. Non-Traditional Housing is defined as a form of dwelling void of structural floor, structural walls, and structural roof.



FEMA