

# FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS FOR THE TERRITORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA

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Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Donald J. Trump's disaster declaration issued for the territory American Samoa.

## **Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families Can Include *as Required*:**

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for up to three months for homeowners and at least one month for renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on a review of individual applicant requirements. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, territory and charitable aid programs. *(Source: FEMA funded at 75 percent of total eligible costs; 25 percent funded by the territory.)*
- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for territory benefits, such as self-employed individuals. *(Source: FEMA funded; territory administered.)*
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$2 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*
- Loans up to \$2 million for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from



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the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$2 million. (*Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.*)

- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. (*Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.*)
- Other relief programs: Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans' benefits and social security matters.

### **How to Apply for Assistance:**

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated areas can begin applying for assistance by registering at the Disaster Recovery Center that will open in the coming days. Territorial authorities are planning an orderly process to assist all survivors and will provide details through community and media channels.

### **Assistance for the Territory Can Include as Required:**

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. Emergency protective measures assistance, including direct federal assistance, is available to territory government on a cost-sharing basis (*Source: FEMA funded, territory administered.*)
- Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by the territory to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (*Source: FEMA funded, territory administered.*)

### **How to Apply for Assistance:**

Application procedures for the territory will be explained at a series of applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the territory from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies.

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