

# DeSoto County Now Eligible for FEMA Assistance After Hurricane Helene

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Homeowners and renters in DeSoto County who had uninsured or underinsured damage or loss caused by Hurricane Helene can apply for FEMA [disaster assistance](#).

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, essential personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. DeSoto County along with Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Leon, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, Sarasota, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and Wakulla counties are authorized for FEMA Individual Assistance.

Homeowners and renters are encouraged to apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or by using the [FEMA App](#). You may also apply by phone at 800-621-3362. If you choose to apply by phone, please understand wait times may be longer because of increased volume for multiple recent disasters. Lines are open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance go to [FEMA Accessible: Applying for Individual Assistance - YouTube](#).

## What You'll Need When You Apply

- A current phone number where you can be contacted.
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying.
- Your Social Security number.
- A general list of damage and losses.
- Banking information if you choose direct deposit.
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name.



**FEMA**

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If you have homeowners, renters or flood insurance, you should file a claim as soon as possible. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If your policy does not cover all your disaster expenses, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

If you had damage from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, you will need to apply separately for both disasters and provide the dates of your damage for each.

