



FEMA

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News Release

State, FEMA Transitioning Individual Assistance Programs to Aid Earthquake Survivors

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – As the State Individual Assistance program deadline approaches, the State and FEMA are working together to ensure survivors of the Cook Inlet earthquake have the opportunity to apply for federal assistance, which may provide additional assistance to that provided by the State.

The major disaster declaration issued on Jan. 31, 2019 for the state of Alaska as a result of the earthquake on Nov. 30, 2018, makes federal funding available to eligible affected individuals in the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Assistance under the federal Individual Assistance (IA) program can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and other programs to help individuals recover from the effects of the disaster.

The application for federal assistance is separate from the state's program. Individuals with disaster caused damages will need to complete a new application for federal assistance, even if they already applied for aid from the state or other agencies. While the programs are similar, some criteria and types of assistance are different, which necessitates a separate application.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

Affected individuals are encouraged to register for federal assistance, by visiting www.DisasterAssistance.gov or calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 TTY. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are available. Individuals who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.

Alaskans who have not registered for State of Alaska Individual Assistance have until Feb. 28 to do so by applying online at ready.alaska.gov or by calling 1-855-445-7131. Those who are ineligible for federal assistance, but have applied for state Individual Assistance will receive a determination of eligibility for state assistance.

Businesses and residents can go to www.sba.gov/disaster or call SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. Deaf or hard of hearing may call 800-877-8339.

The State and FEMA are working to ensure that there is a smooth transition between the state and federal Individual Assistance programs and that applicants receive all the assistance they are eligible for.

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*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at **800-621-3362** (voice, **711/VRS** - Video Relay Service) (TTY: **800-462-7585**). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).*

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

For official information on the recovery effort following the Alaska earthquake please visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4413. Follow us on twitter [@femaRegion10](https://twitter.com/femaRegion10).

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