

How FEMA is Helping Survivors Before Winter

Survivors in the Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAA's) of Bering Strait, Kashunamiut, Lower Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon affected by the Sept. 15– 20 severe storms, flooding and landslides can now apply for FEMA Assistance until **Nov. 22**.

Efforts to Prepare for Winter in Affected Areas

- FEMA is including a **\$1300 supplement** for eligible applicants to help cover the additional cost of transporting materials and supplies to repair their home.
 - If applicants incur shipping expenses for repair materials over \$1,300, they are encouraged to submit receipts to FEMA for potential reimbursement.
- State of Alaska and FEMA have established a Mass Care Task Force to help communities recover from the September storms and prepare for the upcoming winter freeze.
 - This task force is taking the following actions to help affected communities prepare for winter:
 - Coordination of multi-agency air operations for movement of individuals and materials to affected communities to support community recovery.
 - Coordinating with, and supporting, governmental and non-governmental agencies that provide sheltering assistance and other direct relief to impacted communities under their own authorities.
 - Identifying the number of homes per village that will need emergency repairs and materials to enable survivors to shelter-in-place during the winter.
 - Identifying inventory of necessary items used to provide safe winter habitation, such as loss of subsistence foods, household items and providing materials as available.
- FEMA and the State of Alaska representatives are traveling to affected villages to help survivors apply and are performing inspections to expedite the delivery of services before the winter freeze limits construction efforts.
 - To find out more information on where FEMA staff will be, make sure to check out advisories on FEMA's disaster recovery page by visiting: www.fema.gov/disaster/4672.



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Disaster Assistance Available

- Survivors in the designated areas may receive assistance for home repairs and temporary housing, including funds to help repair or replace damaged homes and personal property, including furniture and appliances. Subsistence items necessary for survival may also be eligible. These may include fishing and hunting equipment, ATVs, boats, meat grinders and subsistence storage structures.
 - Contents that were damaged in fish camps may also be eligible for reimbursement. However, fish camp structures are only eligible under the State of Alaska's Individual Assistance program.
- FEMA assistance is **not the same as insurance**. FEMA only provides funds to help make a home safe, sanitary and functional. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate assistance from insurance or other sources for the same items.
- The State of Alaska also has an Individual Assistance program to help those affected by disaster. FEMA is coordinating closely with state officials to make sure survivors applying for state assistance also apply with FEMA.
 - Survivors applying to the state must apply to FEMA first. Failure to apply to both could result in denial of benefits from one or both programs.

Disaster Assistance Application Process

- Survivors can apply for **federal assistance** in one of several ways:
 - Calling the Alaska-specific Disaster Assistance Hotline at: **1-866-342-1699**; TTY users dial 711 or, if you are calling from an out-of-state area code, dial 800-770-8973 for Alaska relay service.
 - With a FEMA representative in your community.
 - Online at www.disasterassistance.gov ;
 - or on the FEMA app.
 - The deadline to apply for federal assistance is **Nov. 22, 2022**.
- Survivors can apply for **state assistance** online at ready.alaska.gov/IA or by calling the Disaster Assistance Hotline at **1-844-445-7131**
 - The deadline to apply for State of Alaska assistance is **Nov. 17, 2022**
- **FEMA is working to ensure that even those with limited internet access** have accessibility to apply.
 - In addition to accessing the online application, survivors can contact the Alaska-specific FEMA Hotline at **1-866-342-1699** or apply in-person with a staff member.
 - If applicants do have access to internet but it is unstable, there are a few things to keep in mind:
 - If completing a **State of Alaska online application** and the internet connection is lost, the application will be automatically sent to the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) staff. Caseworkers will then follow-up to help complete the application.

- If connection is lost before submitting a **FEMA online application** after the first few pages, it will automatically be saved as incomplete, and a FEMA representative will follow up with a phone call. Applicants who aren't sure if their application was saved should call the FEMA hotline, **1-866-342-1699**. If you are having connectivity issues, FEMA encourages you to call the Alaska assistance hotline rather than apply through the online portal.
- Before submitting an application, survivors should be prepared to provide information on income, homeowner or renters insurance (if applicable), and report damage to the affected residence caused by the September storms.
 - To be eligible for financial assistance, applicants must include proof of occupancy, such as a lease or rental statement, a bank statement or pay stub, an official letter from a Tribal Community leader or utility bill.
 - Applicants must also include proof of identity via a federal, state, or tribal government photo ID.
 - Awards received are not taxable income. Accepting a FEMA grant will not affect Social Security benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other federal programs.

Accessibility

- FEMA is committed to providing equal access to our programs and services without discrimination. If you require a reasonable accommodation, call or text **907-727-6221** or email FEMA-language-access-request@fema.dhs.gov. You can also let staff in the field know you require an accommodation such as spoken language resources, mobility assistance, or sign language interpreting services. If you feel you have experienced discrimination, call the FEMA Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448 or 800-462-7585 (TTY/TDD) or email FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov.