

Florida Hurricane Helene Recovery

Oct. 2, 2024

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

If you sustained damage or losses from Hurricane Helene, FEMA may be able to help. You may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured or underinsured disaster-related expenses.

Homeowners and renters in **Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Franklin, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Leon, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla counties** can apply to FEMA for assistance.

The quickest way to apply is to go online to DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply using the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices or calling toll-free **800-**

621-3362. Lines are open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#). Application deadline for Hurricane Helene is Nov. 27, 2024.

4 Ways to Apply for Disaster Assistance

- ONLINE**
DisasterAssistance.gov
- FEMA APP**
Download the FEMA APP
- IN PERSON**
At one of our Disaster Recovery Centers
fema.gov/drc
- CALL**
800-621-3362

FEMA

If You Applied for FEMA Assistance Previously

If you applied for FEMA assistance after Hurricane Ian, Debby, Idalia or previous storms, you must apply separately for assistance after Hurricane Helene. You will need to describe what damage occurred and on what date, to ensure federal disaster assistance from two storms is not duplicated. If you were affected by both Hurricane Debby and Hurricane Helene, please provide the date of your most recent damage.

FEMA Specialists in Communities After Hurricane Helene

Disaster Survivor Assistance crews are in Florida neighborhoods helping people apply for FEMA assistance after Hurricane Helene. DSA specialist wear FEMA attire and have federal photo identification badges. They go door to door in affected neighborhoods to help people apply for federal assistance, check the status of an application, identify potential needs and make connections with organizations that can provide resources. DSA crews never ask for, or accept, money.



FEMA

Be Alert to Fraud After Hurricane Helene

FEMA personnel working in areas impacted by Hurricane Helene carry official photo identification. FEMA representatives never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. Don't believe anyone who promises a disaster grant in return for payment. Don't give your banking information to a person claiming to be a FEMA housing inspector. FEMA inspectors are never authorized to collect your personal financial information. If you believe you are the victim of a scam, report it immediately to your local police or sheriff's department or contact Florida's Office of the Attorney General by calling 866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226) or visit myfloridalegal.com. To file a fraud complaint, go online to Scam Report (myfloridalegal.com).

What Kind of Help Can FEMA Provide?

FEMA assistance does not replace insurance and cannot restore your home to its pre-disaster condition. But FEMA may be able to provide help for uninsured or underinsured costs. File your insurance claim, then apply to FEMA. FEMA's disaster assistance offers [new benefits](#) that provide flexible funding directly to survivors. In addition, a simplified process and expanded eligibility allows Floridians access to a wider range of assistance and funds for serious needs.

Disaster Recovery Centers

Visit a Disaster Recovery Center to meet with specialists from FEMA, the State of Florida and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Centers that were previously open for people affected by Hurricane Debby are reopening and new centers are opening in communities affected by Hurricane Helene. Any center can help with either storm.

- **Baker County:** Fire Station 20, 14496 FL-121, Macclenny, FL 32063 (Open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday)
- **Columbia County:** Lake City Reporter, 180 E. Duval St., Lake City, FL 32055 (Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday)
- **Hillsborough County:** Hillsborough Community College - The Regent, 6437 Watson Rd., Riverview, FL 33578 (Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Sunday)
- **Manatee County:** Lakewood Ranch Library, 16410 Rangeland Pkwy., Bradenton, FL 34211 (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Sunday)
- **Sarasota County:** Sarasota Christian Church, 2923 Ashton Rd., Sarasota, FL 34231 (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday)
- **Suwannee County:** Hale Park, 215 Duval St. NE, Live Oak, FL 32064 (Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday Saturday)

Be Safe When Cleaning Up

Follow the direction of local authorities as you clean up. Be aware of safety concerns and separate debris for collection as instructed by local officials. Before cleaning up, make sure to document any property damage with photos and receipts. Use generators only outdoors and at least 20 feet from windows, doors, and attached garages. Make sure to keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding.

Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**.

SBA Business Recovery Centers are operating at Rocky Bluff Library, 675 US 301 in Ellenton and Sarasota Christian Church, 2923 Ashton Rd. in Sarasota.

Additional Resources

- [Hope Florida: Get help, give help](#)
- Florida Division of Emergency Management Updates: floridadisaster.org/disaster-updates/storm-updates/
- State Assistance Information Line: Call **800-342-3557** for resources after Hurricane Helene
- Disaster Legal Hotline: **833-514-2940**
- 2-1-1: Call for essential services
- Red Cross: 800-Red Cross (800-733-2767)
- Crisis Cleanup: **844-965-1386**