

Reminder to Use FEMA Assistance for Intended Purposes

Applicants who have received federal disaster assistance for the Dec. 17 – 21, 2023 severe storm and flooding are required to use the money for its intended purpose only.

If you live in Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, or Somerset counties and sustained loss from the severe storm and flooding, FEMA may be able to help. You may be eligible for FEMA financial assistance for temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

Disaster assistance is intended to help applicants pay for home repairs, or replacement of personal property lost because of the severe storm and flooding. A letter explaining what the payment is to be used for arrives shortly after you receive the check or direct deposit payment.

Those receiving assistance are urged to keep receipts for their disaster spending for three years to document that the money was used to meet disaster-related expenses. If you receive an insurance settlement to cover the same expenses, you must reimburse FEMA. Audits may be conducted to confirm funds were spent properly.

If an applicant uses the payment on anything other than its intended purpose, they may be ineligible for future disaster assistance. In some cases, FEMA may ask that the funds be returned.

There are several ways to apply for FEMA assistance:

- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center. To find a center close to you, go online to: [DRC Locator](#), or text DRC along with your Zip Code to 43362 (Ex: DRC 04074)
- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362**. Help is available in most languages. The Helpline is available daily from **7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET**.
- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov (also in Spanish).
- Download the FEMA [mobile app](#) (also in Spanish), available at Google Play or the Apple App Store.

To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#)

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

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, you can call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.



FEMA