



FEMA

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News Release

Survivors in Seven Georgia Counties Can Now Apply for Federal Disaster Assistance

ATLANTA – The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency announce that survivors in seven Georgia counties affected by Hurricane Matthew can now register with FEMA for disaster assistance through the Individual Assistance program. President Obama’s Oct. 8, 2016, major disaster declaration for Georgia was amended to approve the Individual Assistance program for Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, McIntosh and Wayne counties.

Survivors who sustained damage or losses caused by Hurricane Matthew in those counties can begin applying for assistance by calling FEMA’s helpline at **800-621-3362** for voice, 711 and video relay service (VRS). Survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have difficulty speaking and use a TTY, should call **800-462-7585**. The lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time until further notice. Online registration is available at DisasterAssistance.gov.

Individual Assistance may include grants for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as repairing or replacing damaged or destroyed personal property, medical and dental expenses. Low-interest disaster loans from the [U.S. Small Business Administration](http://U.S.SmallBusinessAdministration) may also be available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance.

FEMA Individual Assistance is designed to help survivors with immediate essential needs and to help displaced survivors find a safe, sanitary, and functional place to live temporarily until they can return home. Many survivors may have additional needs beyond what FEMA can provide. GEMHSA and FEMA work closely with state, federal, community- and faith-based, and voluntary agency partners to help match survivors who have remaining needs with other sources of assistance.

Georgia residents in the seven designated counties should register with FEMA even if they have insurance, but only if their property was damaged by Hurricane Matthew. FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but under-insured applicants may receive help after their insurance claims have been settled.

Registering with FEMA is required for federal aid, even if the person has registered with their local emergency manager or another disaster-relief organization such as American Red Cross. Federal disaster

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aid does not affect other government benefits, such as Social Security and Medicaid, and is not considered taxable income. Only one person per household is eligible to register. To be eligible for

Individual Assistance, the damaged home must be the primary residence of the applicant. Survivors must use the name that appears on their Social Security cards when registering with FEMA.

Survivors will be asked for the following information when registering:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged home or apartment
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where they can receive mail
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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*For more information on Georgia's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.ga.gov
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www.twitter.com/georgiaEMA or www.twitter.com/femaregion4.*