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Press Release Tuesday November 15, 2022 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Disaster Recovery Center is open in Hardee County

The Disaster Recovery Center is located at 515 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula, FL at the Hardee County Agri-Civic Center from 9:00am until 6:00pm seven (7) days a week to assist residents and business owners.

FEMA Deadline to Apply for Assistance is November 28, 2022

The deadline to apply is at the close of business on November 28th. Here are three ways to apply for FEMA assistance if you have been affected by Hurricane Ian. Homeowners and renters with active homeowners/renter insurance policies are still encouraged to apply for benefits that may not be covered under their policies.

It is critical that individuals use their address that the disaster occurred at in order to avoid a delay in the application process.

- Online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov
 - Through the FEMA mobile app
 - Call 800-621-3362 (For those who use relay services such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, provide FEMA the number for that service)
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If you have already applied and received a denial letter from FEMA

If you received a letter stating you're ineligible for assistance or "no decision" can be made at this time, don't be discouraged or frustrated. Instead, read the entire letter to find out what's needed for FEMA to continue processing your application. Many times, it's a simple fix that can be addressed in an appeal.

Here are some of the most common reasons for an ineligible or "no decision" determination:

Insurance settlement. You must provide a copy of your insurance settlement approval or denial letter to FEMA. If your insurance settlement is insufficient to meet your disaster-related needs, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

You reported no home damage or minimal damage when you registered with FEMA. If you reported your home had no disaster-related damage but later discovered damage did occur, appeal the determination. Documentation from a local official or contractor supporting your appeal may help document the damage to your home.

Proof of occupancy. When FEMA is unable to verify the occupancy of your primary residence, you may need to provide documentation, such as utility bills, a bank or credit card statement, phone bill, pay stubs, a driver's license, state-issued ID card or voter registration card showing the address of your damaged primary residence.

No initial rental assistance. FEMA cannot provide temporary rental assistance if you remain in your damaged home while it's being repaired. After you apply to FEMA, you may find your housing needs have changed. Contact FEMA as soon as possible to update your housing status and explain why you have a need to relocate.

No communication with FEMA. If you miss an appointment with a FEMA housing inspector and did not follow up with FEMA, your assistance could be affected. Also, make sure FEMA has your correct contact information. If you are unable to meet with an inspector as planned, let FEMA know.

Your home is safe to occupy. FEMA housing assistance typically only covers costs to make your home habitable. Damage to non-essential space, landscaping or spoiled food is not covered by FEMA grants.

There may be other reasons why FEMA determined your application was ineligible. If you have questions or need additional information about the next steps to take, visit your local Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. More information can be found by clicking [here](#)

Temporary Housing Assistance through FEMA

Homeowners or renters whose primary residence received major damage (significant structural damage that requires extensive repairs and is not safe and functional to live in) or has been destroyed (total loss or damaged to such an extent that repair is not feasible) as a result of the disaster (based on the FEMA inspection)

- If applicants meet the criteria for direct temporary housing, they will be contacted by FEMA.
- Applicants who do not qualify for direct temporary housing may qualify for rental assistance. FEMA rental assistance provides temporary financial help so disaster survivors have somewhere to live while they make plans for permanent housing.

FEMA has the following three (3) options available to eligible residents

Transportable Temporary Housing Units

FEMA may place a travel trailer or Manufactured Housing Unit (MHU) on a private site or in a commercial park. FEMA may also coordinate with the State of Florida and local officials to construct group sites for several transportable housing units.

Applicants approved for a travel trailer or MHU must sign a Revocable License and Receipt of Government Property prior to moving into the unit.

Direct Lease

FEMA may lease existing, ready-to-occupy residential properties for use as temporary housing. Eligible property types may include vacation rentals, corporate apartments, second homes, single-family homes, cooperatives, condominiums, townhouses, and other readily fabricated dwellings. Direct lease is for eligible applicants whose housing needs cannot be met with other direct temporary housing assistance options.

Multi-family Lease and Repair

FEMA funds the repair or improvement of existing vacant multi-family rental properties that eligible applicants can use for temporary housing.

Applicants approved for Multi-family Lease and Repair or Direct Lease must sign a temporary housing agreement with FEMA and an occupant lease with the property owner prior to moving into the unit.

Survivors may be eligible even if they did not qualify for Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA). Information provided to FEMA at the time of application is sufficient for FEMA to make a decision on eligibility.

Hardee Emergency Management Facebook Page



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