

Florida Hurricane Recovery

Oct. 21, 2024

Key Messages

- Disaster Recovery Centers opened in Indian River, Martin and St. Lucie counties over the weekend.
- Disaster Recovery Centers at the David Barksdale Senior Center in Hillsborough County and GT Bray Park in Manatee County closed Sunday, Oct. 20, and will reopen in new locations this week.
- To date, FEMA has approved a total of more than **\$472.8 million** to help Floridians with losses from Milton, Helene and Debby, including:
 - **\$125.4 million** approved for Hurricane Milton
 - **\$304.7 million** approved for Hurricane Helene
 - **\$42.7 million** approved for Hurricane Debby
- **1,989** Households checked in to Transitional Sheltering Assistance hotels and motels.



Disaster Recovery Centers

- Disaster Recovery Centers are open in Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hernando, Indian River, Madison, Martin, Pinellas, Sarasota, St. Lucie, Suwanee and Taylor counties. Additional locations will continue opening in the coming days.
- To find center locations go to fema.gov/drc or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362. All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology.
- Survivors do **not** need to visit a center to apply for assistance. Survivors are encouraged to apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by downloading the [FEMA App](#).
- FEMA does not distribute cash at Disaster Recovery Centers.



FEMA

Transitional Sheltering Assistance

- FEMA has activated Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) for Floridians displaced by Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton in 52 counties and for tribal members of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians. Residents in these counties who have applied for disaster assistance may be eligible to stay temporarily in a hotel or motel paid for by FEMA. Applicants do not need to request TSA. FEMA will notify them of their eligibility through an automated phone call, text message, and/or email, depending upon the method of communication they selected at the time of application for disaster assistance.

FEMA Assistance and Citizenship

- You or a member of your household [must be U.S. citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen](#) to apply for FEMA assistance. Families with diverse immigration status, including adults who are undocumented, can apply as long as at least one family member is a citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen. For instance, if you are undocumented and have a child under 18 who is a U.S. citizen and lived in the household during the time of the disaster, you can apply for FEMA assistance.

Serious Needs Assistance

- **Serious Needs Assistance** is money to pay for emergency supplies like water, food, first aid, breast-feeding supplies, infant formula, diapers, personal hygiene items, or fuel for transportation. Serious Needs Assistance is available for survivors who apply during the first 30 days after a disaster is declared. If you don't agree with FEMA's decision, you can appeal by showing why you need FEMA assistance. The decision letter you get from FEMA will have more information about the types of documents you should send. Learn more about [Serious Needs Assistance](#).

No Charge for Services

- FEMA teams are in communities helping people apply for assistance and conducting home inspections to verify damage for FEMA. These personnel carry FEMA photo ID and never charge for services. If someone asks for money for disaster assistance, they do not represent FEMA.

U.S. Small Business Administration

- **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 open in Hillsborough and Manatee counties. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

Operation Blue Roof

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is installing fiber-reinforced sheeting to cover damaged roofs until arrangements can be made for permanent repairs to damaged homes across affected Florida communities. The service is free and the initial sign-up period ends Nov. 5.

- Florida Residents affected by Hurricane Milton can sign-up at www.bluroof.gov, by calling 888-ROOF-BLU (888-766-3258), or by visiting a Right-of-Entry collection center throughout the affected areas.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

- If you sustained damage or loss from Hurricanes Milton, Helene or Debby, [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 disaster-related expenses.
 - ✓ Quickest way to apply is online at DisasterAssistance.gov.
 - ✓ Or use the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices.
 - ✓ You can also call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362**.
- If you choose to apply by phone, please understand calls to FEMA's helpline are experiencing delays because of the increased volume due to multiple recent disasters.
- 2024 Application deadlines: **Hurricane Debby Nov. 12; Hurricane Helene Nov. 27; Hurricane Milton Dec. 11.**
- **If you applied for FEMA assistance** after Hurricane Helene, Debby, Idalia, Ian or previous storms, you must apply separately for assistance after Hurricane Milton. Learn more: [Applying for FEMA assistance in multiple disasters](#).

Additional Resources

- **Clean & Sanitize:** FEMA may be able to provide up to \$300 in one-time financial assistance to help with cleanup. [Clean and Sanitize Assistance | FEMA.gov](#).
- **Multi-Agency Resource Centers:** Florida Division of Emergency Management and local communities are establishing these centers to assist residents with storm recovery. FEMA specialists are available at most centers.
- **Be Alert to Fraud:** Con artists and criminals may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud or identity theft after disasters. [Be Alert to Fraud After Florida Hurricanes | FEMA.gov](#)
- **FEMA Rumor Response:** Know what's true and what isn't. [Hurricane Rumor Response | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Mental health resources for Floridians](#)
- **For help with cleanup:** Call 833-GET HOPE
- [Tips for Mold Cleanup](#)
- **Florida Division of Emergency Management Updates:** floridadisaster.org/disaster-updates/storm-updates/
- **Disaster Legal Hotline:** 833-514-2940
- **Crisis Cleanup:** 844-965-1386
- [IRS announces tax relief Milton; various deadlines postponed to May 1, 2025, in all of Florida | Internal Revenue Service](#)