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## **News Release**

# Two Weeks Left for Virginians to Apply for FEMA Assistance

**BRISTOL, Va.**— Individuals and households in Bedford, Bland, Carroll, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe counties and the cities of Galax and Radford who were affected by Hurricane Helene have two weeks left to apply for assistance.



Survivors can apply for FEMA assistance in the following ways:

- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center
- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov
- Download the <u>FEMA mobile app</u>
- Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. The helpline is available from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Time in most languages. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

#### The deadline to apply for FEMA Individual Assistance is December 2, 2024.

FEMA assistance may cover rental assistance, temporary housing, home repairs, personal property losses and other disaster-related needs.

FEMA grants do not have to be repaid. FEMA assistance is non-taxable and will not affect eligibility for Social Security. Medicaid, or other benefits.

### Have Questions About a FEMA Determination Letter? Visit Us for Help.

If you have already applied for FEMA assistance and have questions about the status of your application or about <u>appealing a FEMA determination letter</u> you have received, visit a DRC near you for one-on-one assistance or call the FEMA helpline at **1-800-621-3362**. FEMA staff are ready to answer your questions. If you choose to appeal, you must do so within 60 days of the date of your determination letter.

FEMA has set up a rumor response webpage to clarify our role in the Helene response. Visit <u>Hurricane Helene: Rumor Response | FEMA.gov.</u>

For more information on Virginia's disaster recovery, visit <u>vaemergency.gov</u>, the <u>Virginia Department</u> of Emergency Management Facebook page, fema.gov/disaster/4831 and facebook.com/FEMA.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters. FEMA Region 3's jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Follow us on X at x.com/FEMAregion3 and on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/company/femaregion3.

To apply for FEMA assistance, please call the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362, visit <a href="https://www.disasterassistance.gov/">https://www.disasterassistance.gov/</a>, or download and apply on the FEMA App. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish and 3 for other languages). Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Any disaster survivor or member of the public may contact the FEMA Civil Rights Office if they feel that they have a complaint of discrimination. FEMA's Civil Rights Office can be contacted at <a href="FEMA-OCR-ECRD@fema.dhs.gov">FEMA-OCR-ECRD@fema.dhs.gov</a> or toll-free at 833-285-7448.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects the civil rights of persons with disabilities. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by the federal government, federal contractors, and by

recipients of federal financial assistance. Any recipient or sub-recipient of federal funds is required to make their programs accessible to individuals with disabilities. Its protections apply to all programs and businesses receiving any federal funds. This applies to all elements of physical/architectural, programmatic and communication accessibility in all services and activities conducted by or funded by FEMA. FEMA intends to comply with the Rehabilitation Act in all federally conducted and assisted programs in alignment with the principals of whole community inclusion and universal accessibility.