

Help for Survivors with Insurance

FEMA may provide assistance to underinsured survivors to help pay for disaster-related costs that insurance doesn't cover.

What is changing?

Based on feedback received from disaster survivors, impacted communities, and stakeholders, FEMA made changes to Individual Assistance to cut red tape and expand eligibility to reach more people and help them build back stronger. These changes apply to disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024.

The following information explains how insurance affects eligibility for FEMA assistance.

What should I know about FEMA assistance if I have insurance?

You need to tell FEMA about all the insurance coverage you have (e.g., flood, homeowners, renters, vehicle, mobile home, medical, burial, etc.) when you apply for FEMA assistance. By law, FEMA can't pay for costs that your insurance covers, so it's important to contact your insurance company right away to file a claim.

What if I still need help after getting money from my insurance?

In some cases, FEMA may help pay for costs your insurance didn't cover, up to FEMA's maximum award amounts. For Fiscal Year 2024, these maximum amounts are \$42,500 for Housing Assistance and \$42,500 for Other Needs Assistance.

So, if you still need help, you can send FEMA a copy of the documents from your insurance company that show the damage or expenses your insurance covers. The types of documents survivors can send include:

- Insurance settlement information.
- Insurance denial letter, including a denial because damage did not exceed the policy deductible.
- Proof of lack of insurance, such as a policy with an exclusion for specific causes of damage, or a lack of coverage for temporary housing.

How does my insurance affect my FEMA assistance amount?

FEMA may be able to help with costs that your insurance doesn't cover. For each type of assistance, FEMA will look at your insurance payout and compare it to your verified loss or damage.

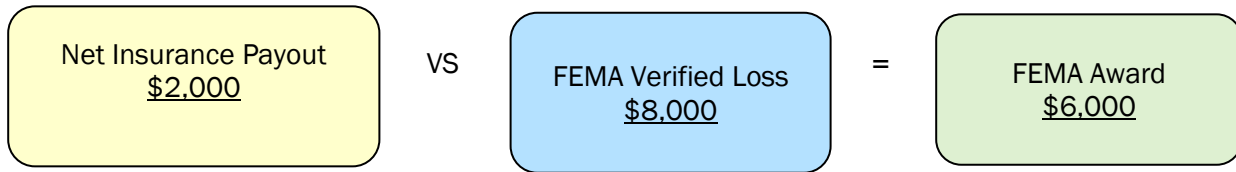
HOME REPAIR EXAMPLE

If your net payout (the amount your insurance paid for your claim after deductibles) is less than the loss amount recorded during your FEMA inspection, you can get Home Repair Assistance for the difference, up to the maximum award amount between FEMA verified loss and your net insurance payout.



FEMA

If you received \$2000 from your insurance company for home repairs and a FEMA inspection determines you need \$8000 of basic repairs to make your home safe to live in, you would be awarded \$6000.



Will FEMA help pay insurance deductibles?

It depends. FEMA doesn't directly pay deductibles, but your FEMA award may be able to cover some or all of it.

What about things insurance doesn't cover?

Yes, FEMA may cover things that insurance doesn't cover, like damage to wells and septic systems.

How can FEMA help when my insurance claim is delayed?

In some cases, FEMA may be able to provide some help while you are waiting for your insurance settlement. If it has been 30 days or more since you filed your insurance claim and you have received no funds, please contact the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362. FEMA may be able to provide you some initial funds to rent somewhere to stay while you wait for your insurance settlement.

I don't agree with FEMA's decision. How can I appeal?

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.

You may use an optional Appeal Request form, which is included in the decision letter you receive from FEMA. You can also choose to write and sign a letter to send with your documents to help FEMA understand why you need help.

How can I send documents?

You can send supporting documents to FEMA by:

- Uploading to your disaster assistance account at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Mailing to FEMA, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055.
- Faxing to 1-800-827-8112.
- Visiting a Disaster Recovery Center, if available.