

# What If I Apply for FEMA Assistance Past the Deadline?

FEMA provides flexibility for survivors who apply to FEMA after the deadline to apply for FEMA assistance has ended.

## What is changing?

Based on feedback from disaster survivors, impacted communities, and stakeholders, FEMA made changes to Individual Assistance to simplify the application process. These changes apply to disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024.

The following information explains how survivors who apply for FEMA assistance after the deadline or who live in areas that are declared after the application deadline has ended can get help from FEMA.

## When can I apply?

After the President declares a disaster that includes Individual Assistance, survivors have 60 days to apply for help from FEMA.

In some cases, FEMA can extend the deadline for survivors to apply for FEMA assistance beyond 60 days, so it is important to pay attention to local news sources for information on the FEMA application period.



## I missed the deadline. Can I still apply?

Yes. If you weren't able to apply for FEMA assistance before the deadline, you still have another 60 days to complete a late application for FEMA assistance online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362.

FEMA can't accept applications for disaster assistance after the 60-day grace period.

## What happens next?

FEMA will send you a letter in the mail or through your online account asking you to explain why you weren't able to complete your application before the deadline ended. You can call the FEMA Helpline or send a letter to give FEMA this information.

Calling the FEMA Helpline is the quickest way to give FEMA the reason for your late application. Other options include:

- Uploading a letter to your online account at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov).



# FEMA

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- Mailing it to FEMA, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055.
- Faxing it to 1-800-827-8112.
- Visiting a Disaster Recovery Center, if available.

## What are some of the reasons for applying late?

FEMA understands that life situations don't stop just because a disaster happens. This list isn't meant to include every reason, but some life events that could prevent you from applying for FEMA assistance before the deadline include:

- You or a member of your family had a serious illness or injury.
- A member of your household passed away.
- Getting married or going through a divorce.
- Having a child (including adoption and foster care placement).
- You were travelling (personal or business reasons) and weren't in the area during the full application period.
- You or your household experienced domestic violence or human trafficking.
- Disaster-specific issues, like losing electricity, communication equipment, etc.

You do not need to send any other document to show why you were not able to apply before the deadline.

## My area was added to the disaster after the application deadline ended. Can I still get help?

Yes. If your area is added to a disaster declaration after the deadline to apply for FEMA assistance has passed, you will have 60 days from the date your area was added to apply. If you missed the deadline for your area, you still have another 60 days to complete a late application.

## How can I send documents?

You can send supporting documents to FEMA by:

- Uploading to your disaster assistance account at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://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.