



FEMA

Sept. 7, 2017

FEMA-4331 WV – NR018

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News Release

Make Smart Decisions with West Virginia Flood Recovery Funds

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — With more than **\$2 million** in disaster assistance already in the hands of West Virginia storm survivors, state and federal officials have some advice: Resist the urge to splurge.

State and federal disaster assistance is meant to help people get back on their feet. Disaster assistance may include grants and loans to help pay for repairs to damaged homes, temporary housing, or other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other sources.

A letter explaining a payment's purpose will arrive within a day or two of the check or direct deposit payment. If survivors use their FEMA payment on anything other than its intended purpose, they may have to repay those funds—and might not be able to receive future disaster assistance.

The state of West Virginia and FEMA provide assistance to eligible survivors primarily as Housing Assistance and/or Other Needs Assistance. Federal help is also available in the form of low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to help businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters to recover.

FEMA grants may be used for:

- Temporary rental assistance;
- Essential repairs necessary to return a damaged home to a safe and functional condition; and
- Replacing a home that has been destroyed.

Other Needs Assistance grants may be used to cover disaster-related expenses, such as:

- Medical, dental, funeral and burial costs;
- Replacement of disaster-damaged personal property, specialized tools for employment, household items and appliances; and
- Vehicle repair or other serious needs.

Survivors who have not yet registered may do so online with any computer, smart phone or tablet at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. They may also call 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585. Those who use 711 Relay or Video Relay Services may call 800-621-3362. Help is available in most languages and phone lines are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/femaregion3> and the FEMA Blog at <http://blog.fema.gov>.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster. Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call (800) 877-8339.