

Georgia Hurricane Idalia Recovery

Sept. 18, 2023

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for FEMA assistance after Hurricane Idalia, you will receive an eligibility letter from FEMA. The letter will explain your application status and how to respond. You might need to provide more information to FEMA. If the letter says you are ineligible, it will tell you how to provide more information and appeal the decision. If you have a question, call 800-621-3362 for help.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

If you sustained loss from Hurricane Idalia and live in Cook, Glynn or Lowndes county, FEMA may be able to help. You may be eligible for FEMA financial assistance for temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

Visit DisasterAssistance.gov, download the [FEMA mobile app](#) for mobile devices, or call 800-621-3362. The FEMA Helpline is open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service such as VRS, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

The deadline to apply is Nov. 6, 2023.

By the Numbers

Just ten days since President Biden signed the Hurricane Idalia disaster declaration, approvals for federal assistance for recovery in Cook, Glynn and Lowndes counties total more than **\$1.95 million** from FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

FEMA's IHP program has approved more than **\$1.16 million** in Housing Assistance (HA) and nearly **\$230,000** in Other Needs Assistance (ONA).

SBA has approved over **\$569,700** in low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and business owners.

DRC #1 in Lowndes County was visited by 50 survivors on Sunday, Sept. 17, its first day of opening.



FEMA

What Kind of Help Can FEMA Provide?

FEMA assistance does not replace insurance and cannot restore your home to its pre-disaster condition. But FEMA assistance may include funds for some losses not covered by insurance. File your insurance claim, then apply to FEMA.

Rental Assistance: Financial help for rent, including a security deposit, if your primary residence was made uninhabitable by the disaster. The assistance includes essential utilities such as electricity and water.

Housing Assistance: Covers repairs to structural parts of your home, such as windows, doors, floors, walls, ceilings, cabinets, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system, utilities, well and septic system.

Other Needs Assistance: Covers disaster-related items such as medical and dental expenses; funeral and burial costs; furniture and appliances; specialized tools used in your occupation; educational materials; moving and storage; vehicles; and generators.

Car Damage: If your car had uninsured damage caused by the disaster, you may be eligible for money to help repair or replace it. Certain requirements apply, but you must register with FEMA first to determine eligibility.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Hurricane Idalia survivors may be eligible for a weekly benefit of as much as \$365 under the federally funded, state-administered Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. Workers in Cook, Glynn or Lowndes county who were directly affected by Hurricane Idalia must first apply for regular unemployment insurance on the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) website at <http://www.dol.georgia.gov>, or in person at any GDOL career center. The GDOL will notify claimants if they are also eligible to file for DUA. For more information about this program and how to apply, visit [DUA Approved for Three Georgia Counties | Georgia Department of Labor](#).

Mold Cleanup

The “Homeowner’s and Renter’s Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters” is available in English and Spanish by visiting:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup-guide.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/mold/es/cleanup-guide.html>

Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers long-term, low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) by visiting [DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela](https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela)

SBA Representatives are available to help survivors apply for loans and understand next steps at these three SBA Business Recovery Centers (BRCs).

Lowndes County

Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce

16 N. Ashley St.

Valdosta, GA 31602

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Sunday)

Lowndes County Civic Center

2108 E. Hill Ave.

Valdosta, GA 31601

Hours: Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Glynn County

Ballard Community Center

30 Nimitz Dr.

Brunswick, GA 31520

Opening: Monday, Sept. 18, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Hours after Sept. 18: Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Closed: Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 (only)

Public Assistance

- On Sept. 9, the disaster declaration was amended to include Public Assistance (categories A thru G) for **Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Echols, Emanuel, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Lanier, Pierce, Screven, Tattnall, Thomas, Tift, Ware, and Wayne counties**, as well as Public Assistance (categories C thru G) for **Cook, Glynn, and Lowndes counties**.
- Public Assistance is FEMA's largest assistance program. It is a cost-sharing program, available to state, tribal, county and local governments, as well as private nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship, on a cost-sharing basis. FEMA pays no less than 75% of project costs.

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