



Recovery Guidance for Declared Counties – Individual Assistance

Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance

<p><i>Who issues this declaration?</i></p>	<p>The President of the United States is the only legal authority to declare a disaster impacted county and its residents eligible for Individual Assistance. This decision is only made after receiving a declaration request from a State Governor or Tribal Executive, and a recommendation from FEMA.</p>
<p><i>Why did we receive this declaration?</i></p>	<p>Federal Individual Assistance, if authorized, is intended to assist eligible individuals and families when State, Tribal, and local government resources and assistance programs are overwhelmed.</p>
<p><i>What should the county do now?</i></p>	<p>The most important first step is to message. All disaster impacted members of your community are now eligible to register for FEMA IA. Survivors may register two ways: Online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362. Fliers for survivors can be found in Info Message # 00287. The registration period for survivors is limited to 60 days from declaration.</p> <p>The crucial next step is to prepare for Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) operations within your county. When the county identifies at least 3 (three) locations, a WebEOC mission request will need to be entered for tracking purposes. When FEMA and State are prepared to start the inspections of the DRC locations, we will reach out to schedule those.</p>
<p><i>When will Disaster Survivor Assistance field operations begin?</i></p>	<p>Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Teams are frequently the first FEMA boots on the ground within a county after it is declared for IA. These staff will immediately go to work messaging program availability and assisting survivors with applying for assistance. DSA Teams make every effort to coordinate their community presence with county and state emergency management officials, but they will always prioritize expediency for the sake of the survivor.</p> <p>Info Message # 00287 has a handout for county's to provide community members regarding DSA Teams as well as FEMA Inspectors</p>
<p><i>Disaster Recovery Centers</i></p>	<p>Disaster survivors may apply for assistance in person at a DRC in or near their communities. FEMA and applicable STT governments and communities work together to quickly establish DRCs in convenient locations within an area impacted by a disaster.</p> <p>The variety of services available at DRCs give survivors the ability to “one-stop shop” for disaster related programs and receive help in navigating the path toward recovery. Individuals and Household Program (IHP) assistance is limited to 18 months following the date of the Presidential disaster declaration; FEMA may extend the period of assistance due to extraordinary circumstances.</p>
<p><i>Does the county need to conduct IA Damage Assessments?</i></p>	<p>If your county has already received a declaration, you do not need to conduct Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs). If you have not received a declaration for Individual Assistance, then completing IDAs will help the state articulate damages to the federal government.</p>
<p><i>What's next after application?</i></p>	<p>Applicants will receive notification letters from FEMA either by U.S. mail or by electronic correspondence explaining their next steps. If they reported during the application process that they received damage and are unable to live in their primary residence, an inspector will contact them by phone to schedule an inspection. Inspections will be conducted inside and outside the residence.</p>

