

FEMA Assistance for Those Experiencing Homelessness or Residing in Non-Traditional Housing Before the Disaster

FEMA Assistance is available to disaster survivors experiencing homelessness or residing in non-traditional housing, such as a tent or lean-to type of home before the disaster.

Assistance Available

FEMA may provide some forms of Other Needs Assistance to applicants experiencing homelessness or residing in non-traditional housing before the disaster. This may include: Various Options

Additional Assistance for Individuals in Non-traditional Housing

In addition to the assistance listed in the table above, applicants residing in non-traditional housing may also be eligible for: Personal Property and Displacement Assistance

To be eligible for Personal Property Assistance or Displacement Assistance, applicants must prove they lived at the disaster-damaged address as their primary home; FEMA calls this “proving occupancy.”

To prove occupancy, FEMA accepts various documentation that places the applicant at the address at the time of the disaster,

If the applicant does not have access to documentation proving occupancy, they may provide a statement from a public official, member of tribal council, homeless outreach advocate, etc. The statement must be written and signed, and include the applicant’s name, location of residence, dates of occupancy, and the source’s name, title, and contact information.

Application Considerations

When applying for FEMA disaster assistance, the applicant may select “Other” for residence type if they apply online. If they apply by phone, they can explain their living situation to the FEMA representative.

Apply for FEMA Individual Assistance

Online: [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) (fastest option)

FEMA App: available on the Apple App Store or Google Play

By Phone: 1-800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone, or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

Homeless is defined as an individual whose pre-disaster living arrangements were transient in nature and void of any form of structural ownership. Examples of homeless living situations may include rent-free shelters, bridges, underpasses, or streets. *Non-Traditional Housing* is defined as a form of dwelling void of structural floor, structural walls, and structural roof.