



GEMA



FEMA

FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES

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Disaster News

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR GEORGIA TOPS \$4 MILLION

ATLANTA – With more than 1,100 individuals and households now registered for disaster assistance and more than \$4 million in federal funding approved, recovery from the flooding and storms that hit Georgia earlier this spring is surging ahead.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the numbers today. Officials noted that the lion's share of the approved funding (\$3.3 million) is grants to individuals and households to help with disaster losses.

In addition to grants, federal aid includes low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes. SBA disaster loans are a primary source of assistance in federally declared disasters.

"The Individual Assistance grants and the SBA loans are really welcome," said GEMA Director Charley English. "They not only benefit the many families who are aided in recovery, but also our state's economy."

Here are details about the assistance provided through May 15:

- FEMA approved \$3,008,331 to assist individuals and families with disaster-related housing and repair costs and rent for temporary disaster housing. Of this amount, \$2,955,096 is already disbursed.
- FEMA approved \$278,874 for other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance. Of this amount, \$273,865 is already disbursed.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$763,000 in disaster loans to individuals.
- 1,164 individuals, households and businesses have registered with FEMA.
- 728 people affected by the disaster met with recovery specialists at temporary Disaster Recovery Centers set up by GEMA and FEMA to offer in-person help for individuals with disaster-related needs.
- Housing inspectors completed 99 percent (947) of the 954 requests for inspection of disaster-damaged property. Turnaround time from registration to inspection averages fewer than two days.

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GEMA and FEMA officials continue to urge any affected Georgians who have not done so already to register for assistance.

“We are asking people to tell their friends and neighbors, who have damage and who may not yet have heard about it, that help from FEMA may be available,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Bolch. An April 23 federal disaster declaration made Georgians in 21 designated counties eligible for FEMA’s Individuals and Households program to help with losses due to storms and flooding March 26-April 13. A complete list of the 21 counties is below.

To register for assistance from FEMA go online to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call toll free **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 800-462-7585**. The toll-free numbers are staffed seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time. Help in all languages is available.

The 21 counties designated as eligible for FEMA’s Individual Assistance Program due to the March 26–April 13 storms and flooding are Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Camden, Coffee, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Montgomery, Pierce, Tattnall, Tift, Ware, Wheeler and Worth.

There are 45 counties eligible for the FEMA Public Assistance program, which provides financial assistance to local, state, and tribal governments and eligible non-profit organizations for disaster - related cleanup and repair of damaged infrastructure and facilities. Those counties are Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Calhoun, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dodge, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, McIntosh, Miller, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, Pierce, Pulaski, Seminole, Tattnall, Telfair, Tift, Thomas, Toombs, Turner, Upson, Ware, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox and Worth.

All counties are eligible for FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Program which provides funding for measures to reduce future losses from storms and flooding.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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 temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

For more information on Georgia’s disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.ga.gov or www.ready.ga.gov/ or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>

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