



COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

What is COVID-19 Funeral Assistance?

To help ease the financial burden during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing up to \$9,000 in reimbursement for funeral expenses related to COVID-19. The funeral expenses must have been incurred on or after January 20, 2020. FEMA will continue to receive applications for assistance until **September 30, 2025**.

Who is eligible?

FEMA may provide COVID-19 Funeral Assistance to you if you meet all the following criteria:

- You are a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified non-citizen;
- The death occurred in the United States, including U.S. territories and the District of Columbia;
- The death was attributed to COVID-19; and
- You are responsible for the eligible funeral expenses incurred on or after January 20, 2020.

What is covered?

FEMA may approve COVID-19 Funeral Assistance for expenses such as:

- Funeral services
- Burial plot
- Marker or headstone
- Cremation
- Transfer of remains
- Clergy
- Interment
- Casket or urn
- Funeral ceremony
- Costs associated with producing death certificates
- Costs due to local or state government laws or ordinances
- Funeral home equipment or staff
- Transportation for up to two people to identify the person who died

What is required?

You must provide FEMA a copy of an official death certificate that shows the death occurred in the United States, including U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, occurred after January 20, 2020, and was attributed to COVID-19.



If the death certificate was issued between January 20 and May 16, 2020, it must either:

- 1) Attribute the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19, or
- 2) Be accompanied by a signed statement from the original certifier of the death certificate, or the local medical examiner or coroner from the jurisdiction in which the death occurred, listing COVID-19 as a cause or contributing cause of death. This signed statement must provide an additional explanation or causal pathway, linking the cause of death listed on the death certificate to COVID-19.

You must provide FEMA with a signed funeral home contract, invoice, receipts, or other documentation that includes:

- Your name, showing you are responsible for some or all of the expense,
- The name of the person who died,
- Itemized expenses, and
- Proof that the expenses were incurred on or after January 20, 2020.

How does it work?

To apply, call 844-684-6333 toll-free between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. FEMA representatives will take your application, and multilingual services are available.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance applications must be completed with a FEMA representative; you cannot apply online. It will take about 20 minutes to apply, and you must provide:

- Your Social Security number and date of birth,
- The Social Security number and date of birth of the person who died,
- Your current mailing address and telephone number,
- The address where the individual died,
- If the person who died had burial or funeral insurance policies,
- If you received other funeral assistance (such as donations, CARES Act grants, state/territory assistance, or assistance from voluntary organizations), and
- If you want eligible funds delivered by direct deposit, the routing and account number of your checking or savings account.

After you apply, FEMA will provide you with an application number so that you can create an account on DisasterAssistance.gov.

You must submit supporting documents (e.g., funeral home contracts, receipts, invoices, death certificate) using one of the following options:

- Uploading to your DisasterAssistance.gov account,
- Faxing to 855-261-3452, or
- Mailing to P.O. Box 10001, Hyattsville, MD 20782.



Once FEMA receives all required documents, it takes approximately 45 days to make an eligibility decision.

If FEMA approves your application for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, funds will be deposited to your bank account or sent by mail in the form of a Department of the Treasury check, depending on which option you chose during your application. Funds usually arrive within a few days of approval, and you will receive a notification letter.

Questions

- Call 844-684-6333 toll-free between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Multilingual services are available. If you use a relay service, please provide FEMA with the specific number assigned to you for the service so they can follow up with you about your application.
- You can get answers to many additional questions on the [Funeral Assistance FAQ page](#).

To learn more or start an application, call **844-684-6333**.