

Florida Hurricane Debby Recovery

Aug. 12, 2024

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

If you sustained damage or losses from Hurricane Debby, FEMA may be able to help. You may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

Homeowners and renters in **Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Manatee, Sarasota, Suwannee** and **Taylor** counties can apply to FEMA in several ways:

The quickest way to apply is to go online to DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply using the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices or calling toll-free **800-621-3362**. The telephone line is open every day and 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](#).

FEMA Speaks Your Language

- 1 Press 1 for English
- 2 Press 2 for Spanish



If You Applied for FEMA Assistance Previously

Floridians who applied to FEMA after Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Idalia or other recent disaster declarations should make a separate application if they need assistance for Hurricane Debby losses.

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 may be able to provide help for uninsured or underinsured costs. File your insurance claim, then apply to FEMA. FEMA's disaster assistance offers new benefits that provide flexible funding directly to survivors. In addition, a simplified process and expanded eligibility allows Floridians access to a wider range of assistance and funds for serious needs.

Be Safe When Cleaning Up

Follow the direction of local authorities as you clean up. Be aware of safety concerns and separate debris for collection as instructed by local officials. Before cleaning up, make sure to document any property damage with



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photos and receipts. Use generators only outdoors and at least 20 feet from windows, doors, and attached garages. Make sure to keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding.

Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**.

Additional Resources

- **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** can help survivors tarp, muck and gut their residence after flooding. Call **855-228-3862** to register for assistance.
- Floridians can **text Debby to 27123** or email fldrresponse@gmail.com to reach the **Florida Baptist Disaster Relief** organization for food and help with cleanup.
- **Activate Hope** connects Floridians with resources for food, household goods, home repairs and more. Request help by applying online at [Hurricane Debby Recovery - Hope Florida](https://www.hurricane-debby.com).
- **Crisis Clean Up**: Call **844-965-1386** to register for assistance with debris.
- Current **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** recipients who lost food due to Hurricane Debby can apply for food assistance replacement online at [MyFLFamilies.com/Debby](https://www.myflfamilies.com/Debby).
- **Crisis Counseling**: Call the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at **800-985-5990**; for Spanish, press "2").
- **Disaster Legal Aid**: Call **833-514-2940**. Disaster survivors anywhere in the state may call to apply for free civil legal services.
- [IRS Extends Tax Filing Deadline for Disaster Survivors to Feb. 3, 2025](https://www.irs.gov/charity-civildonation).