



MEMA



FEMA

News Release

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FEDERAL-STATE DISASTER AID FOR TORNADO SURVIVORS TOPS \$1 MILLION

CLINTON, Miss. — More than **\$1 million** in federal disaster aid, including housing assistance, has been approved in the last 10 days to help people recover from losses caused by severe storms and tornadoes across Mississippi that resulted in a major disaster declaration by the president.

The help targeted people eligible for Individual Assistance in disaster-designated counties, which are: Attala, Choctaw, Holmes, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Union, Warren and Yazoo.

Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency continue to encourage people who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses related to April 23-24 storms and tornadoes in the designated counties to register for help with FEMA.

There is still time to register, and it is as easy as dialing **800-621-FEMA (3362)** any day between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. local time or **TTY 800-462-7585** for people with speech or hearing impairment. An application can also be made on www.disasterassistance.gov at any time. A person may also track the status of an application on that site.

Here is a summary of assistance to individuals through Friday, May 7:

- More than **\$918,000** has been approved for housing expenses, including temporary rental assistance, home repair costs and assistance toward replacing destroyed homes.
- Nearly **\$131,000** has been approved to cover other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses and essential personal possessions.
- More than **\$135,000** has been set aside for disaster unemployment assistance.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration has distributed more than **620** applications for low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes.
- More than **1,200** applicants have registered with FEMA for some form of disaster assistance.
- Inspectors completed nearly **600** inspections of homes so FEMA can determine eligibility for housing assistance.
- Disaster Recovery Centers, where storm survivors may receive face-to-face assistance from many specialists, have been established or circulating in six counties.

(MORE)

- More than **900** visits have been made to Disaster Recovery Centers operated jointly by FEMA and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

For more information, contact the State Emergency Joint Information Center at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at www.msema.org. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook using the keyword MSEMA.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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.

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