

FEMA Funeral Assistance Program
April 12, 2021

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now accepting applications for funeral assistance and reimbursement through its COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

Expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation typically include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual
- Transfer of remains
- Casket or urn
- Burial plot or cremation niche
- Marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- Arrangement of the funeral ceremony
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
- Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances

Assistance is limited to a maximum of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application per state.

COVID-19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE HELPLINE



Call the
Hotline



Confirm
Eligibility



Gather
Documents



Receive
Financial
Assistance

Apply Today by calling:
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585
Monday - Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. PST

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Apply for Assistance:

To begin the application process, individuals can call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585. The helpline is available Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. PST. [Find a checklist of documentation needed prior to your call by clicking here.](#)

Eligibility:

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet the following conditions:

1. The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
2. The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
3. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
4. There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

A minor child cannot apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance on behalf of an adult who is not a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

Gather Documentation:

Once an applicant has applied for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance and is provided an application number, they may provide supporting documentation to FEMA a few ways:

- Upload to their DisasterAssistance.gov account
- Fax documents: **855-261-3452**
- Mail documents: **P.O. BOX 10001, Hyattsville, MD 20782**

If you are eligible for funeral assistance, you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.

Deadline:

At this time, there is no deadline to apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance. FEMA will communicate a specific deadline once established.

Learn more about the reimbursement process or FAQs by visiting [FEMA's website](#). Applicants can also access a [video overview of the process here](#).

Additional program details from [FEMA](#):

If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, FEMA encourages you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- **An official death certificate** that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

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- **Funeral expenses documents** (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- **Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. FEMA is not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

Can a funeral home apply on behalf of the family?

Funeral homes are not eligible to apply on behalf of a family or to be a co-applicant on the Funeral Assistance application. The person applying must be an individual, not a business, who incurred the funeral expenses.

Are pre-planned and pre-paid funerals eligible for reimbursement if the individual died due to COVID-19?

Any source of payment designated specifically to pay for a funeral in anticipation of a future death cannot be reimbursed under this assistance. This includes burial or funeral insurance, a pre-paid funeral contract, a pre-paid trust for funeral expenses, or an irrevocable trust for Medicare.

What information do I need to provide when I register?

The applicant responsible for COVID-19 funeral expenses will need to provide the following information below when they call FEMA to register for assistance.

- Social Security number for the applicant and the deceased individual
- Date of birth for the applicant and the deceased individual
- Current mailing address for the applicant
- Current telephone number for the applicant
- Location or address where the deceased individual passed away
- Information about burial or funeral insurance policies
- Information about other funeral assistance received, such as donations
- CARES Act grants and assistance from voluntary organizations
- Routing and account number of the applicant's checking or savings account (for direct deposit, if requested)

Applicants should call the FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Expenses program line 844-684-6333 for assistance. Visit the [FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Page here](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions here](#).