

FEMA Updates the Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide

FEMA has updated the Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG), a comprehensive guide for all FEMA Individual Assistance programs. The updated IAPPG Version 1.1 includes several changes that incorporate additional assistance for disaster survivors, as authorized in the [Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#), aligns policy to current processing guidance, addresses lessons learned from recent disasters and demonstrates FEMA's commitment to providing assistance to under-served communities.

Major updates to the guide include:

- Clarifying assistance available to applicants residing in non-traditional housing.
- Delegating authority for rental assistance rate increases.
- Detailing new authorization and eligibility criteria for Critical Needs Assistance.
- Updating the real property verified loss threshold for direct housing referral criteria to \$12 per square foot, from the previous \$17,000 threshold, to capture a wider range of survivor circumstances regardless of event type, location, or size of their dwelling.
- Changes authorized by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, include:
 - Separate financial assistance maximum award amounts for Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance.
 - Updated Multi-Family Lease and Repair property eligibility requirements.
 - Specific disaster-damaged accessibility items covered under Home Repair or Personal Property Assistance are not limited to a financial maximum award. This means a survivor who lost their wheelchair would not have to decide between their critical equipment and housing repairs.
 - Increases to the Group Flood Insurance Policy coverage and premium.
 - Waiver authority for debts meeting specific criteria.

The guide provides a comprehensive policy resource for all stakeholders engaged in post-disaster recovery and can be found online at [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov). This version applies to all disasters declared on or after May 26, 2021 and will supersede the previous version of the IAPPG published in March 2019.



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Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

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