

The Flood Insurance Requirement and Group Flood Insurance Policies

Flood Insurance Requirement (Obtain & Maintain or O&M)

- Applies to homeowners and renters who receive federal disaster assistance for flood-damaged repair or replacement of home or personal property losses in the high-risk flood areas.
- **Homeowners** must purchase and maintain coverage on the property for as long as it exists. Requirement stays with the property. Must disclose to next buyer/owner.
- **Renters** must maintain coverage for as long as they live at the rental property. Requirement ends if they move from that property.
- Not complying can make you ineligible for certain types of future disaster assistance in a flood event. Noncompliant survivors may still be eligible for things like medical, dental and temporary housing assistance.



RECOVERING FROM A PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED DISASTER CAN BE EMOTIONALLY OVERWHELMING AND FINANCIALLY STRENUOUS.

Two ways to seek financial support are through a federal disaster assistance grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

If you receive such federal disaster assistance, you may be required by law to purchase flood insurance. This will protect you and the life you've built against future financial devastation in the wake of a flood event, independent of a disaster declaration.

The flood insurance requirement applies to buildings and personal property that have been damaged by a flood disaster event in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). In order for buildings and personal property to be considered insurable by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), they must be located within a participating community.

State	O & M
Texas	79,594



FEMA

More on Obtain and Maintain

- How much coverage do you need? At least as much as the federal assistance you received.
- For the requirement after FEMA disaster assistance, generally, if the structure's flood zone changes from high risk (Zones A and V) to moderate-to-low risk (Zones Shaded X and X), the flood insurance requirement can be lifted. Different federal agencies and different programs within those federal agencies have different requirements.
- For FEMA disaster assistance, generally, if the structure's flood zone changes from high risk (Zones A and V) to moderate-to-low risk (Zones Shaded X and X), the flood insurance requirement can be lifted. However, different agencies and programs have different requirements.



FEMA

Language from Individual Assistance Award Letter

30-Day Grace Period to Return Assistance:

By law, if you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area and accept FEMA Assistance for flood-damaged losses, you are required to purchase and maintain flood insurance. The requirement to purchase and maintain flood insurance applies during the life of the property.

Failure to purchase and maintain flood insurance may affect your eligibility for future FEMA assistance for flood damage. If you do not wish to purchase and maintain flood insurance, you have 30 days from the date of this letter to return FEMA Assistance provided for flood losses. If you decide to return the assistance provided, please send a personal check or money order to: FEMA, P.O. Box 6200-16, Portland, OR 97228-6200, or contact FEMA's Helpline. Please include your name and registration number in any check or document you submit to FEMA.

For more information about flood insurance, visit www.FloodSmart.gov or call 800-638-6620.

Group Flood Insurance Policies (GFIPs): A Subset of O & M

Three-year flood insurance certificates purchased for disaster survivors who:

- Live in a high-risk flood area, and
- Get repair and replacement assistance for a flood event, and
- Weren't required to apply for a disaster loan or were denied an SBA loan.

Terms start 60 days after dec. date. Policies become effective 30 days after the NFIP receives notice and premium. Owners can transfer GFIPs.

\$2,400 premium paid from IHP award. Currently \$82,000 in coverage (\$41,000 Housing Assistance Award plus \$41,000 Other Needs Assistance Award). \$200 deductible.

State Name	Declaration Number	Date of Declaration	Date of Expiration	Number of Certificate Holders
TEXAS	DR-4466	10/04/2019	12/3/2022	284
TEXAS	DR-4454	07/17/2019	9/15/2022	108

If survivors do not maintain flood insurance at least equal to the amount of their IA award, after their GFIP expires, they may not be eligible for repair and replacement dollars for a future flood event. Less than 20% of certificate holders go on to purchase a policy.



FEMA

By County Count of Expired/Soon to Expire GFIPs

Texas

DR-4454	108
CAMERON COUNTY	60
HIDALGO COUNTY	19
WILLACY COUNTY	29
DR-4466	284
CHAMBERS COUNTY	11
FORT BEND COUNTY;HARRIS COUNTY	22
HARRIS COUNTY	29
JEFFERSON COUNTY	42
LIBERTY COUNTY	24
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	124
NEWTON COUNTY	1
ORANGE COUNTY	29
SAN JACINTO COUNTY	2



FEMA

NFIP Direct Notifications to GFIP Holders

- Several notices are sent to GFIP certificate holders over the course of the three years.
 - Welcome packet
 - Anniversary notices
 - 45 day notice before expiration
 - Non-renewal – expiration notice
- Each also come with a colorful buck slip notice advising of requirements



ACT NOW!
**Your flood insurance
policy expires in 45 days.**

You received assistance as a result of a Presidential Disaster Declaration, including flood insurance under FEMA's Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP). That coverage will soon expire.

Contact an insurance agent and purchase a new policy before your current coverage lapses.

Once your policy expires, you will have 30 days to purchase a new flood insurance policy or you will face a lapse in coverage. If your coverage lapses, a 30 day waiting period will apply, which may leave you unprotected from future flooding. Contact an insurance agent as soon as possible to discuss your options.

Find an agent at
[FloodSmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider](https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider)

or call NFIP Direct at
800-638-6620.



FEMA

45 Day Letter

Notice of Non-Renewal

RE: GROUP POLICY NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EFFECTIVE DATE: [REDACTED]
EXPIRATION DATE: [REDACTED]
GRANTOR STATE: [REDACTED]
COUNTY: [REDACTED]

AMOUNT OF INSURANCE: [REDACTED]
DISASTER NO: DR-[REDACTED]
DISASTER DATE: [REDACTED]

PROPERTY LOCATION

[REDACTED]

Dear Policyholder:

Coverage for the property listed above under the Group Flood Insurance Policy will expire on the date shown above. This Group Flood Insurance Policy was purchased on your behalf through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) following a federally declared flood disaster.

The existing Group Flood Insurance Policy is NOT renewable. It is your responsibility to buy and maintain a Standard Flood Insurance Policy when the Group Flood Insurance Policy expires. If you do not continue your coverage, you will not qualify for future Federal flood disaster assistance, including Federal loans and Individuals and Households Program awards. It is important for you to remember that no losses will be covered under the Group Flood Insurance Policy after the expiration date listed above. This includes losses in flood disasters in which no Federal disaster declaration is made.

By law, you must purchase flood insurance with coverage in at least the same amount of your federal home repair and personal property assistance in order to qualify for future Federal disaster assistance. Call 800-621-3362 to find out how much federal home repair assistance you received. The coverage must be purchased and maintained as long as (1) you live in or own the home that was flooded; or (2) you are a renter and live in the same rental unit where you previously received disaster assistance through the Individuals and Households Program.

Floods can happen anywhere and anytime. Flooding is the Nation's most frequent natural disaster. Your property is at high risk of future flooding. Purchase a Standard Flood Insurance Policy *now* so that when your property floods again, you will be reimbursed for flood damage through flood insurance, and you will qualify for additional Federal assistance. To purchase a Standard Flood Insurance Policy or find out more information about the National Flood Insurance Program, please contact your local insurance agent or call toll-free, (800) 638-6620.

Sincerely,
Customer Service Unit
NFIP Direct Servicing Agent
(800) 638-6620



FEMA

Final Notice

Notice of Non-Renewal

RE: GROUP POLICY NUMBER: [REDACTED]
EFFECTIVE DATE: [REDACTED]
EXPIRATION DATE: [REDACTED]
GRANTOR STATE: [REDACTED]
COUNTY: [REDACTED]

AMOUNT OF INSURANCE: [REDACTED]
DISASTER NO: DR [REDACTED]
DISASTER DATE: [REDACTED]

PROPERTY LOCATION

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Policyholder:

Coverage for the property listed above under the Group Flood Insurance Policy expired on the date shown above. This Group Flood Insurance Policy was purchased on your behalf through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) following a federally declared flood disaster.

By law, you must purchase flood insurance with coverage in at least the same amount of your federal home repair and personal property assistance in order to qualify for future Federal disaster assistance. Call 800-621-3362 to find out how much federal home repair assistance you received. The coverage must be purchased and maintained as long as (1) you live in or own the home that was flooded; or (2) you are a renter and live in the same rental unit where you previously received disaster assistance through the Individuals and Households Program.

The existing Group Flood Insurance Policy is NOT renewable. It is your responsibility to buy and maintain a Standard Flood Insurance Policy. If you do not continue your coverage, you will not qualify for future Federal flood disaster assistance, including Federal loans and Individuals and Households Program awards. It is important for you to remember that no losses will now be covered under the Group Flood Insurance Policy since it has expired.

Floods can happen anywhere and anytime. Flooding is the Nation's most frequent natural disaster. Your property is at high risk of future flooding. Purchase a Standard Flood Insurance Policy *now* so that you will be reimbursed for flood damage through flood insurance, and you will qualify for additional Federal assistance. To purchase a Standard Flood Insurance Policy or find out more information about the National Flood Insurance Program, please contact your local insurance agent or call toll-free, (800) 638-6620.

Sincerely,
Customer Service Unit
NFIP Direct Servicing Agent
(800) 638-6620



FEMA

How to Make a Claim on Your GFIP

- Report your loss immediately to NFIP Direct at (800) 638-6620 and ask them about an advance payment. Then prepare for your flood adjuster's visit.
 - Provide receipts to verify that repairs were made following the prior flood loss.
 - Separate damaged and undamaged property.
 - Take pictures of damaged property before disposing
- \$200 deductible (per building claim and contents claim)

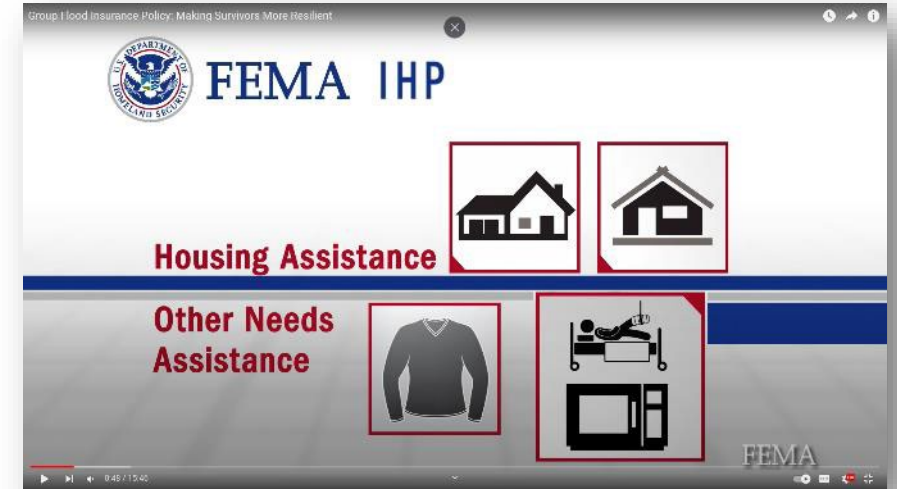
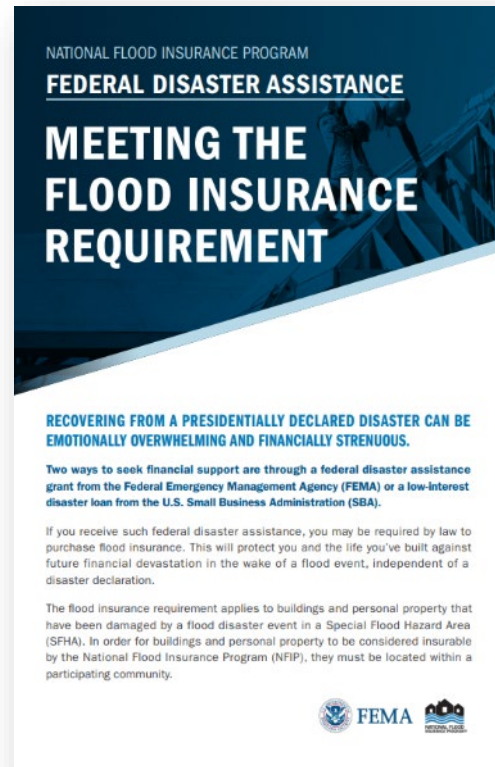
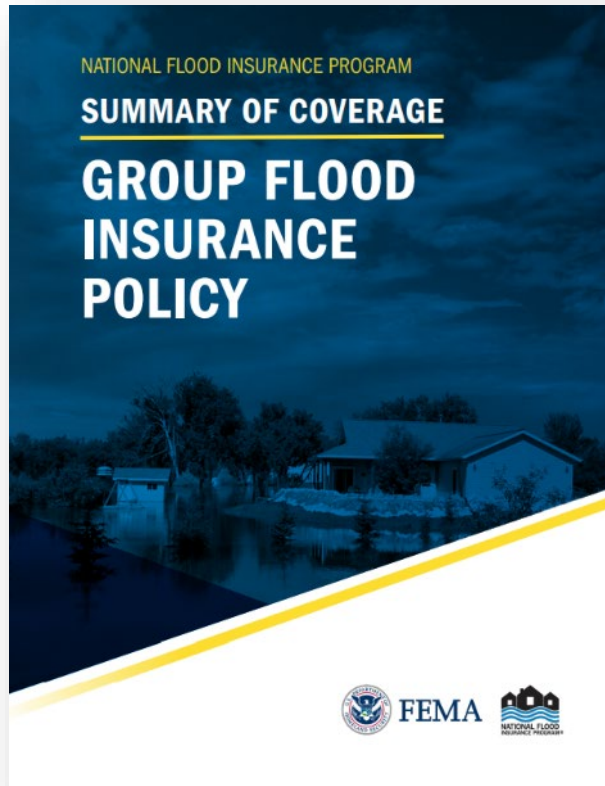


FEMA

Who can survivors/GFIP holders contact for more information?

- For assistance understanding how much FEMA disaster assistance they received and how much flood insurance they will need to carry in order to meet the obtain and maintain requirement, survivors can call the FEMA National Processing Service Center at 1-800-621-FEMA. Note, while the minimum amount required will keep you eligible for future FEMA assistance, that amount may not be enough to repair all damages in another flood disaster. If you can afford more coverage than you are required to purchase, consider the benefits of additional coverage.
- For more information regarding GFIPs and purchasing a Standard Flood Insurance Policy, call the NFIP Direct at 1-800-638-6620, option number 2.
- For assistance finding an insurance agent who sells flood insurance, contact the FEMA Mapping & Insurance eXchange at 877-336-2627, choose option 4 for insurance. When survivors call an insurance agent to discuss getting flood insurance, survivors should ask them to quote different levels of coverage, so the survivor can get a level of coverage they can afford.





- GFIP Summary of Coverage in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [YouTube video](#): Group Flood Insurance Policy: Making Survivors More Resilient
- Federal Disaster Assistance: Meeting the Flood Insurance Requirement in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP) Fact Sheet

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers Group Flood Insurance Policies to individuals who do not have flood insurance and have received assistance from FEMA after a presidentially declared disaster strikes.

Group Flood Insurance Eligibility

If flooding damaged your property, including your home or your personal possessions, you may be eligible to receive flood insurance through a Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP). In addition to meeting general conditions of eligibility to receive assistance under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP), you must meet the following conditions to be considered for a GFIP certificate:

- Flooding damaged your property located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.
- FEMA provided you assistance for the repair or replacement of the property damaged by flooding through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), triggering a requirement for you to obtain and maintain flood insurance on the property.
- The damaged property is in a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating community and is eligible for NFIP coverage.
- You did not have a previous requirement to maintain flood insurance on their damaged property.
- U.S. Small Business Administration denied your application for a disaster loan or FEMA did not require you to apply for a disaster loan, thus making them eligible for Other Needs Assistance provided as part of IHP.

Out-of-Pocket Costs for a Group Flood Insurance Policy

If eligible, FEMA will provide you a GFIP with no out-of-pocket cost to you. Instead, FEMA pays the cost of the GFIP policy (currently \$2,400) directly to the NFIP from your IHP disaster assistance funding. If the cost of a GFIP policy exceeds the remaining amount of IHP Assistance available to you, you will not be eligible for a GFIP. Instead, you will need to purchase an individual policy on your own.



October 2022 1

Hoja informativa Póliza Grupal del Seguro de Inundación (GFIP)

La Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA) ofrece pólizas grupales del seguro de inundación a las personas que no tienen seguro de inundación y que han recibido asistencia de FEMA después de ocurrir un desastre declarado por el presidente.

Elegibilidad para una póliza grupal del seguro de inundación

Si las inundaciones han dañado su propiedad, incluyendo su vivienda o sus pertenencias personales, puede ser elegible para recibir un seguro de inundación a través de una Póliza Grupal del Seguro de Inundación (GFIP, por sus siglas en inglés). Además de cumplir con las condiciones generales de elegibilidad para recibir asistencia bajo el Programa de Individuos y Familias (IHP, por sus siglas en inglés) de FEMA, debe cumplir con las siguientes condiciones para ser considerado para un certificado de GFIP:

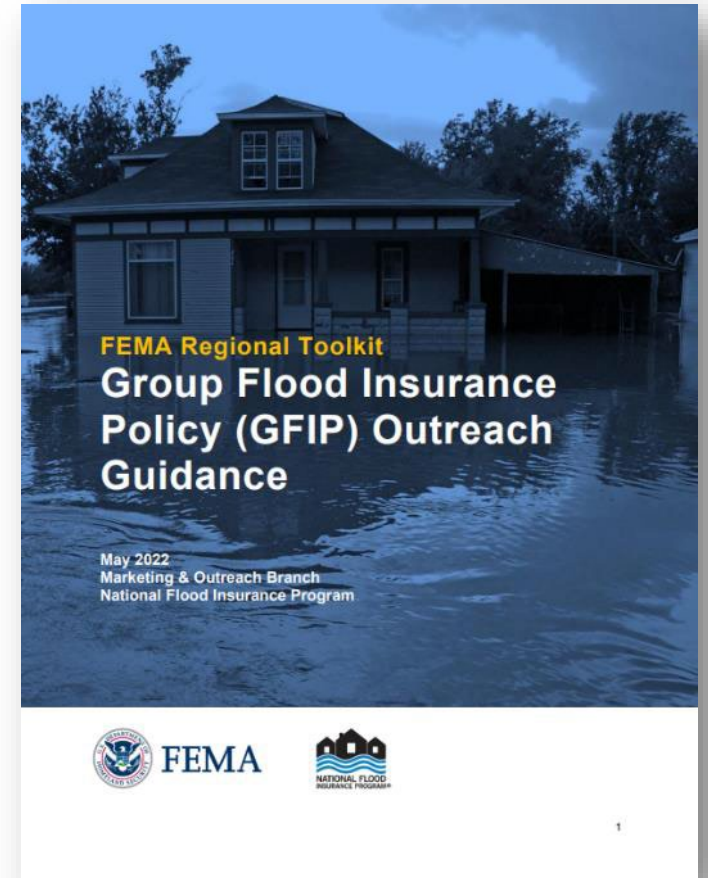
- La inundación dañó su propiedad situada en una Zona especial de riesgo de inundación.
- FEMA le proporcionó ayuda para la reparación o sustitución de la propiedad dañada por la inundación a través del Programa de Individuos y Familias (IHP), lo que lo obligó a obtener y mantener un seguro de inundación en la propiedad.
- La propiedad dañada se encuentra en una comunidad participante en el Programa del Seguro Nacional de Inundación (NFIP, por sus siglas en inglés) y es elegible para la cobertura de NFIP.
- Usted no tenía un requisito previo de mantener un seguro de inundación en su propiedad dañada.
- La Agencia Federal para el Desarrollo de la Pequeña Empresa denegó su solicitud de préstamo por desastre o FEMA no le exigió que solicitara un préstamo por desastre, lo que lo hace elegible a la Asistencia para Otras Necesidades proporcionada como parte del IHP.

Costos de su bolsillo para obtener una póliza grupal del seguro de inundación

Si es elegible, FEMA le proporcionará una póliza de GFIP sin tener que pagar nada de su bolsillo. En su lugar, FEMA paga el costo de la póliza de GFIP (actualmente \$2,400) directamente a NFIP con cargo a los fondos de asistencia por desastre de IHP. Si el costo de una póliza de GFIP excede la cantidad restante de la asistencia de IHP disponible para usted, no podrá optar a una póliza de GFIP. En su lugar, necesitará comprar una póliza individual por su cuenta.



Octubre de 2022 1



- [GFIP Fact Sheet \(floodsmart.gov\)](https://www.floodsmart.gov) English
- [GFIP Fact Sheet \(floodsmart.gov\)](https://www.floodsmart.gov) Spanish
- [fema-group-flood-insurance-toolkit-5-2022.pdf \(floodsmart.gov\)](https://www.floodsmart.gov)



FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX)

Map Specialists at the [FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange](#) (FMIX) support the public and other FEMA stakeholders with inquiries pertaining to a wide variety of flood insurance, flood hazard, mapping and floodplain management topics including how to find and read flood maps, preliminary flood hazard data, Letters of Map Change, Elevation Certificates, and how to find an agent who sells flood insurance.



1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627)



FEMA