

Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole Recovery Update

Dec. 22, 2022

CONTENT: [What's News?](#) | [By the Numbers](#) | [Latest Headlines](#) | [More Information](#)

What's News?

Federal Support for Hurricane Ian Exceeds \$4 Billion

More than 4.2 billion in federal grants, disaster loans and flood insurance payments has been provided to the state of Florida and to households after Hurricane Ian.

FEMA Helpline (800-621-3362) Holiday Hours

- Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31, 2022, and Jan. 1, 2023 – Closed
- Dec. 26, 2022, Jan. 2, 2023 – Open 9 a.m.–6 p.m. ET
- All other days – Open 7 a.m.–11 p.m. ET (regular schedule)

New FEMA Email Address for Media Inquires

Media can send questions regarding Hurricane Ian (DR4673) or/and Hurricane Nicole (DR4680) to a new email address: FEMA-DR-4673-4680-FL-Newsdesk@FEMA.DHS.gov. Telephone number for news desk is unchanged: 813-381-3241.

Holidays Hours at Disaster Discovery Centers

Most Disaster Recovery Centers will be closed Dec. 23–26, 2022, and Dec. 30, 2022–Jan. 2, 2023, with the following exceptions:

County	Address of DRC	Dates To be Closed
DeSoto	Brewer Sports Park, 1365 SE Hargrave St., Arcadia	Dec. 24–26, 2022 Dec. 31, 2022–Jan. 2, 2023
Palm Beach	Hagen Ranch Road Library, 14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach	Dec. 23–27, 2022 Dec. 30, 2022 - Jan. 2, 2023



FEMA



County	Address of DRC	Dates To be Closed
Sarasota	Shannon Staub Library, 4675 Career Lane, North Port	Dec. 23–26, 2022 Dec. 31, 2022–Jan. 2, 2023

Holiday Closure Information for Business Recovery Centers

Small Business Administration announced all business recovery centers in Florida will be closed from Dec. 23 to 26 and Dec. 30 to Jan. 2 in observance of the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

By the Numbers

Numbers Related to Hurricane Ian:

- **\$4.2 billion** in federal grants, disaster loans and flood insurance payments
- **\$840 million** in FEMA Individual Assistance approved for **364,668** households
- **\$1.33 billion** in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans approved
- **45,400** National Flood Insurance Program claims filed in Florida: **\$1.64 billion** paid
- **\$418 million** in FEMA Public Assistance approved for emergency response costs
- **1,624 households (3,974 members)** checked into hotel rooms under FEMA’s Transitional Sheltering Assistance for households
- **20,119** Blue Roofs installed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Mission completed)

Numbers Related to Hurricane Nicole:

- **\$ 864,500** approved for FEMA Individual and Households Program to support Hurricane Nicole survivors
- **2, 534** registrations received from survivors in designated counties affected by Hurricane Nicole
- **2,216** homes visited by FEMA teams working in neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Nicole

Volusia County Approved for Direct Temporary Housing Assistance for Hurricane Ian

- Volusia County just joined the other six counties eligible for FEMA direct temporary housing under Hurricane Ian declaration DR-4673-FL.
- Hurricane Ian survivors in these **seven counties** can apply for direct temporary housing: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Lee, Sarasota and Volusia.
- This assistance includes direct lease of residential properties, repair of existing vacant multi-family properties for use by survivors, and travel trailers or manufactured housing units.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance If Your Primary Residence Is a Boat

If your primary residence is a boat, you may qualify for FEMA assistance. Please use the physical and complete address of the dock or marina and the slip or mooring number, if the boat was not located on private property.

More Applicants Qualified as More Types of Documents Accepted

- FEMA now accepts more types of documents to verify ownership and occupancy, and also accepts documents from a wider range of dates.
- Additional 11,600 survivors of Hurricane Ian have received more than \$140 million in assistance that they otherwise would not have been eligible to get.

SBA Waives Interest Rate for First Year on New Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration will waive the interest rate for the first year on new disaster loans and extend the initial payment deferment period automatically to 12 months.

Latest Headlines

Disaster Recovery Centers Accessible to People with Disabilities

Disaster Recovery Centers are accessible to people with disabilities and those with access and functional needs.

- The centers have assistive technology equipment that allows survivors to interact with staff.
- Video Remote interpreting is available and in-person sign language available by request.
- Real-time captioning as well as information in Braille, large-print, audio and electronic versions are available.
- The centers also have accessible parking, ramps and restrooms.

FEMA Mitigation Funds to Help Rebuild Stronger

Homeowners who are eligible for Individuals and Households Program assistance may receive additional mitigation funds from FEMA to reduce damage losses. Specific mitigation measures may include:

- Roof repair to withstand higher winds and help prevent water infiltration.
- Elevating a water heater or furnace to avoid future flood damage.
- Elevating or moving an electrical panel to avoid future flood damage.

Additional Time to Renew Flood Insurance Policy

- Over 8,000 National Flood Insurance Program policyholders affected by Hurricane Ian in Florida may still be able to renew their policy due to the grace period extension. The renewal extension applies to people whose flood insurance policy expiration was between Aug. 25 and Oct. 23.
- NFIP has extended the grace period to renew policy from 30 days to 90 days for certain Florida policyholders in 26 counties where individual assistance has been authorized due to Hurricane Ian.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

If a FEMA inspector visits your home but you have not applied for FEMA assistance, or if you receive a letter from FEMA without submitting your FEMA application, you may be a victim of identity theft. If so, please inform the FEMA inspector or call FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 to stop the application process. If you suspect identity theft, please visit [Identity Theft | FTC Consumer Information](#) or [IdentityTheft.gov](#).

Free Rebuilding Advice

FEMA specialists are offering tips on building back stronger at these locations:

- Home Depot, 4040 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL 33781. Hours: Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Home Depot, 11941 Bonita Beach Rd. SE, Bonita Springs, FL 34135. Hours: Sunday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday–Saturday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

To talk with a FEMA Mitigation specialist, call 833-336-2487, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday

Substantial Damage Determinations

Local community officials are required to inspect disaster-damaged structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas to meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code and the community's floodplain management regulations. If the cost of repairing the structure to its condition before Hurricane Ian is 50 percent or more of its pre-disaster market value, the house or building is considered "substantially damaged." FEMA does not make substantial damage determinations; the determination is made by a community's building official or floodplain manager. Repairing a structure in a floodplain requires a permit. Survivors have options to bring the structure into compliance with the Florida Building Code and the community's floodplain management regulations.

Temporary Housing for Survivors

FEMA is providing grants for basic repairs to homes damaged by the storm, rental assistance for those who can't remain in their homes and hotel stays for survivors who can't find a place to rent. This support is available in all 26 counties approved for FEMA Individual Assistance under the disaster declaration of Hurricane Ian.

Advance Payment in National Flooding Insurance Program

- Contact your flooding insurance agent or company to see if you can receive an advance payment to help jumpstart your recovery.
- Policyholders of National Flooding Insurance Program affected by Hurricane Ian may receive \$5,000-\$20,000 with documentation, before an adjuster visits.
- If you don't know who your insurance agent or company is, you may call 877-336-2627.

FEMA Is Hiring

FEMA is conducting local hiring for more than 300 jobs in Brandon, Fort Myers, Kissimmee, Orlando and Sarasota. The agency is seeking people with experience in customer service, logistics, environmental protection, engineering, emergency management and other job categories. These positions are full-time, 120-day appointments that may be extended depending on operational needs. How to apply: Apply online through [USAJobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov).

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

There are several ways to apply: 1) [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), 2) download the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices, 3) call toll-free 800-621-3362. The line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET. Help is available in most languages. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

SBA Loans Can Help Your Recovery

Long-term, low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations from SBA are available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply via the SBA's secure [website](#). Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling SBA customer service center at 800-659-2955.

More Information



- [DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov](https://www.disasterdistress.samhsa.gov) (800-985-5990)
- [Mold Cleanup | CDC](#)
- [IanDebrisCleanup.com](https://www.iandebriscleanup.com)
- [How to Appeal FEMA's Decision](#)
- [Locate a Disaster Recovery Center](#)
- [Understanding Your FEMA Letter | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Privately-owned Access Routes | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Personal Property and FEMA Assistance | FEMA.gov](#)

- [Damaged Wells and Septic Systems | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Verifying Home Ownership or Occupancy | FEMA.gov](#)
- [It's Important to Submit an SBA Loan Application | FEMA.gov |](#)
- [Critical Needs Assistance | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Clean and Sanitize Assistance](#)
- [Disaster Unemployment Assistance - FloridaJobs.org \(800-385-3920\)](#)
- [Disaster Legal Assistance \(866-550-2929\)](#)
- [Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#)

###