

# Disaster Assistance for Privately Owned Roads and Bridges

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Mainers who live in Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington or York counties and had a privately-owned road or bridge damaged or destroyed by the severe storms and flooding that took place January 9-13, FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) may provide financial assistance for replacement or repairs.

## Individual Assistance

FEMA's Individuals and Households Program grants may be used to repair disaster-damaged privately owned access roads and bridges. To qualify, the survivor must meet all the basic eligibility criteria for the Individuals and Households Program. They must also be the homeowner and the home serves as the primary residence.

A FEMA inspection is necessary to determine if repairs are necessary for a vehicle to access the property. In addition, the applicant must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- The road and/or bridge is the only access to the property
- No one can access the home due to damaged infrastructure
- The safety of the occupants could be adversely affected because emergency services vehicles, such as an ambulance or a fire truck, cannot reach the residence. However, this will only be considered if access was available before the disaster occurred.

If an inspector was not able to access your primary home because of damage to the route, homeowners may have to call FEMA's helpline at **800-621-3362** for information on how to file an appeal and clarify that the access route to the home prevented an inspection.

When multiple households share a privately-owned access route, FEMA encourages all homeowners to apply for assistance to help all affected households and assistance is shared among applicants, requiring additional coordination and documentation between FEMA and each applicant.

A statement that confirms the following must be included.

- Each household that shares access to the road consents to the repair work.
- Assistance that FEMA provides will be used to make repairs to the access road.



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- That all applicants understand they are responsible for securing permits and complying with local codes and ordinances.
- If there is a Homeowner’s association, confirm that the association was unable to receive assistance from the SBA or private insurance to repair the access route.

To apply for FEMA assistance, go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), download the [FEMA App](#) for mobile devices, visit a Disaster Recovery Center or call toll-free 800-621-3362. The line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service such as VRS, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

To view an accessible video about how to apply visit: [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

## U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration, FEMA’s federal partner in disaster recovery, may also be able to help. Businesses, nonprofit organizations (including associations) and homeowners may be eligible for a low-interest disaster loan to repair or replace land improvements not covered by insurance. These improvements include: a private road or bridge necessary to access the property, repair retaining walls, etc. Homeowners who share private access roads and bridges with other homeowners may also be eligible for SBA disaster loans.

You may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov) for more information. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

For the latest information on Maine’s recovery from the severe storm and flooding from January 9-13-, 2023, visit [Maine Flood Resources And Assistance Hub](#) and [4764 | FEMA.gov](https://4764.FEMA.gov). Follow FEMA on X, formerly known as Twitter, at [twitter.com/femaregion1](https://twitter.com/femaregion1) and at [facebook.com/fema](https://facebook.com/fema).

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*FEMA’s mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

*All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, you can call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.*



# FEMA

April 23, 2024

DR-4764-ME NR-014

FEMA News Desk: 617-551-0631 | [FEMA-DR-4754/4764-ME-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov)

## News Release

### FEMA Funding Can Assist Everyone Who is Eligible

**SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine** – Federal assistance can help Mainers in Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington and York counties recover from the January 9-13 severe storms and flooding. Here are ten facts to know about the help that may be available to you:

1. You won't be taking money away from someone else by applying. FEMA will distribute funds to every eligible applicant regardless of how many people apply.
2. FEMA assistance is available to homeowners and renters, including owners and renters of mobile homes.
3. Eligible homeowners and renters will receive FEMA assistance as grants that do not have to be repaid.
4. You can apply for FEMA assistance even before your insurance claim is processed. Report any settlement or denial letter from your insurance company to FEMA. FEMA cannot provide duplicate benefits, so inform FEMA of your insurance coverage when you apply for assistance.
5. FEMA assistance is nontaxable, and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other federal or state benefits.
6. You can ask questions and get in-person help applying for assistance at a Disaster Recovery Center. Centers are currently open at:
  - **York County:** Wells Fire Station, 585 N Berwick Rd, Wells, ME 04090
  - **Hancock County:** Moore Community Center, 125 State St, Ellsworth, ME 04605
  - **Cumberland County:** Old Orr's Island Schoolhouse, 1594 Harpswell Islands Road, Orr's Island, ME 04066

- **Washington County:** University of Maine, Torrey Building, 40 University Drive, Machias, ME 04654

Centers are open daily 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. More centers are planned to open soon.

7. If your insurance is delayed by 30 days or more and you need money to relocate immediately, FEMA may be able to help. There are several ways to apply for FEMA assistance. Survivors can go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), use the [FEMA mobile app](#), or call 800-621-3362 to apply before the **May 20, 2024 deadline**. The line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA the number for that service.
8. If your car was damaged by the disaster, you may be eligible for money to repair or replace it. Apply with FEMA first, then, if referred, submit a U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan application to determine eligibility.
9. If FEMA refers you to the Small Business Administration, you should apply. SBA's long-term, low-interest disaster loans are the largest source of federal recovery funds – and applying allows FEMA to evaluate you for more types of aid. SBA may be able to increase your loan amount by up to 20 percent of your damage so you can make improvements to make your home safer. To learn more, visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://SBA.gov/disaster).
10. Calling 211 or applying for assistance through another organization or agency does not automatically register you with FEMA. To apply for FEMA assistance, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), download the FEMA App or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

FEMA has plenty of funds to support our operations in Maine for the January 9-13 severe storms and flooding. If you were impacted, apply for assistance, and if you qualify, you will receive it.

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# FEMA

April 18, 2024

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FEMA News Desk: 617-551-0631

[FEMA-DR-4754/4764-ME-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-DR-4754/4764-ME-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov)

## News Release

### FEMA May Help with Recovery Expenses Already Paid

**SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine** – Even if you have already begun repairing or replacing items that were damaged or destroyed during the severe storms and flooding that took place January 9-13, 2024, FEMA may be able to reimburse you for these expenses. Be sure to save your receipts.

Survivors in Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington or York counties who had homes or personal property damaged or destroyed may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

FEMA will only approve home repairs that are necessary to restore the home to a habitable condition. The types of repairs that may be eligible for assistance will vary depending upon the nature of the disaster.

FEMA assistance to repair and replace personal property falls within the following categories:

- **Appliances:** Includes standard household appliances, such as a refrigerator, washing machine, etc.
- **Clothing:** Essential clothing needed due to overall loss, damage, or contamination.
- **Room furnishings:** Standard furnishings found in a bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and living room.
- **Essential Tools:** Tools and equipment required by an employer as a condition of employment and items required as a condition of an applicant's or household member's education.
- **Accessible Items:** FEMA also provides assistance for damaged personal property items required for qualified applicants with disabilities.

- Applicants must meet the following conditions to receive Personal Property Assistance:
  - The item needs to be repaired or replaced due to disaster damage.
  - The occupants of the household have an unmet disaster-related need for the damaged item. FEMA may not provide assistance if the applicant can meet that need with another similar item in their possession or available to the household.
  - The item was owned and being used by occupants of the household.
    - FEMA does not provide assistance for furnishings and/or appliances provided by a landlord.
    - Items used by guests and relatives who were not members of the pre-disaster household are not eligible for assistance.

To apply for FEMA disaster assistance, call toll-free 800-621-3362, go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), download the [FEMA App](#) or visit a Disaster Recovery Center. The phone line is open daily from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET, and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service such as VRS, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service. The deadline for applications is **May 20, 2024**.

For the latest information on Maine's recovery from the severe storm and flooding from January 9-13, 2024, visit [Maine Flood Resources And Assistance Hub](#) and [4764 | FEMA.gov](#). Follow FEMA on X, formerly known as Twitter, at [twitter.com/femaregion1](https://twitter.com/femaregion1) and at [facebook.com/fema](https://facebook.com/fema).

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