

Individual Assistance (IA) Overview for People in Non-Traditional Dwellings



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What is a Non-Traditional Dwelling?

Definition of Non-Traditional Dwellings: Homes void of structural components, such as floor, walls, and roof, are considered non-traditional housing. These may include tents, teepees, yurts, and certain types of huts or lean-tos. Homes with one or two structural components are treated differently than homes void of all three components.



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General Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or qualified alien.
 - The parent/guardian of a minor child who is a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien can apply for assistance on behalf of the child as long as they live in the same household.
- Identity Verification
- Occupancy and Primary Residence at time of the disaster.
- Disaster-related damages.
- Uninsured or underinsured disaster-caused expenses and serious needs.



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What Forms of Assistance Might Be Available?

Eligible Party	Name of Possible Assistance	Description of Assistance	Factsheet or Other Info	Notes
Applicants who resided in Non-Traditional Dwellings who are ABLE to verify occupancy	Serious Needs Assistance (SNA)	\$770 for emergency needs such as food, water, baby formula, transportation, etc.	Serious Needs Assistance FEMA.gov	Expedited, currently not requiring prior inspection
	Displacement Assistance	Displacement Assistance helps survivors who can't return to their home following a disaster by giving them up-front money to help with immediate housing needs.	Displacement Assistance: FEMA Quick Reference Guide	Requires inspection
	Initial Rental Assistance	Up to 2 months of rental assistance at current FMR rate.	See Chapter 3 of the IAPPG: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_iappg-1.1.pdf	None
	Personal Property Assistance	Assistance for replacing clothes, appliances, home furnishings, etc.	Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG)	None
	Other forms of Other Needs Assistance (ONA)	Please see the various descriptions in the IAPPG.	Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG)	None
Applicants who resided in Non-Traditional Dwellings who are UNABLE to verify occupancy	Some forms of Other Needs Assistance such as Transportation, Medical and Dental, Funeral, and Child Care.	Please see the various descriptions in the IAPPG.	Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG)	None



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Verifying Identity

- Documentation from the Social Security Administration (SSA), or other Federal entity, containing full or last four digits of SSN
- Social Security card if accompanied by Federal or State-issued identification
- Employer's payroll document containing full or last four digits of the SSN
- Military Identification
- Proof of name change
- U.S. Passport



Verifying Occupancy

- **Public Official's Statement:** Public Official's (e.g. police chief, mayor, postmaster) written statement that includes the name of the applicant, the disaster-damaged residence address, the period of occupation, and the name and telephone number of the individual providing verification.
- **Credible or official source:** tribal council, public official, homeless outreach advocate
- Utility bills
- Merchant's Statement: bank or credit card statement, phone bill, cable/satellite bill, etc.
- Employer's Statement: Pay stubs and similar documents that reflect the name of the applicant or co-applicant and the disaster-damaged residence address.



Resources

- [Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(IAPPG\)](#)
- [Serious Needs Assistance](#)
- [Displacement Assistance: FEMA Quick Reference Guide](#)



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