

# Navigating Assistance for Pre-Disaster Unhoused Individuals and Households

Disaster survivors who were living in non-traditional places, like shelters or were unhoused, before the disaster might be able to get help from FEMA. This help could include things like emergency care, crisis counseling, help with finding long-term housing, and legal services.

Available financial assistance (outlined below) will depend on **a)** the pre-disaster living arrangement and **b)** the ability to verify residency.

## Available Assistance and Qualifications:

### Residents of Non-traditional Housing

*(A dwelling void of structural floor, walls, and roof—tents, lean-to structures)*

To receive financial assistance, residents of non-traditional housing must demonstrate that their pre-disaster living arrangement was in the impacted area at the time of the event. To verify residency, FEMA may accept alternative documentation, such as:

- A written statement from a credible or official source (e.g., social service agency, caseworker, police officer) which includes the individual's name, location of residence, dates of occupancy pre-disaster, and the source's name, title, and contact information
- Mail, employment records, or other documents showing a connection to the area

**Note:** If the Disaster Survivor is unable to verify residency, they may still be eligible for certain types of other needs assistance (see following page).

#### Housing Assistance

- Initial Rental Assistance (up to 2 months only)
- Lodging Expense Reimbursement (unless received Displacement Assistance)

#### All Types of Other Needs Assistance

- Displacement, Serious Needs, Personal Property, Moving & Storage, Transportation, Medical & Dental, Funeral, Childcare Assistance

### Persons Experiencing Homelessness

*(No form of structural ownership—bridges, underpass, street, etc.)*

FEMA does not provide Housing Assistance to persons experiencing homelessness pre-disaster. However, they may be eligible for the following types of financial assistance:

- **Certain Types of Other Needs Assistance:** Transportation, Medical & Dental, Funeral, and Childcare

Type of Non-Financial Assistance	Non-Traditional Housing		Persons Experiencing Homelessness
	(WITH verification of residency)	(UNABLE to verify residency)	
Mass Care/Emergency Assistance	✓	✓	✓
Crisis Counseling Services	✓	✓	✓
Disaster Case Management	✓	✓	✓
Legal Services	✓	✓	✓
Type of Financial Assistance	Non-Traditional Housing		Persons Experiencing Homelessness
	(WITH verification of residency)	(UNABLE to verify residency)	
<b>Housing Assistance</b>			
Lodging Expense Reimbursement	✓	✗	✗
Initial Rental Assistance <i>(up to 2 months only)</i>	✓	✗	✗
<b>Other Needs Assistance</b>			
Displacement	✓	✗	✗
Serious Needs	✓	✗	✗
Personal Property	✓	✗	✗
Moving & Storage	✓	✗	✗
Transportation	✓	✓	✓
Medical & Dental	✓	✓	✓
Funeral	✓	✓	✓
Child Care	✓	✓	✓

