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FEMA

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News Release

South Carolina: Applying for Federal Disaster Assistance Usually Takes Two Steps

COLUMBIA, S.C. — It takes two steps for survivors of the April 13 South Carolina storms to get possible federal help with losses.

Step one: Use one of several ways to apply for FEMA help.

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Download the FEMA mobile app.
- Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** or **TDD 800-462-7585**. Multilingual operators are available. Those you use 711 or Video Relay Service may call **800-621-3362**. The toll-free numbers are open daily from **7 a.m. to 10 p.m.** Multilingual operators are available.

Step two: Return a completed application for a low-interest disaster loan if referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration after applying with FEMA.

FEMA cannot make survivors whole, but they may help their recovery move forward by providing grants for basic repairs to make homes safe, sanitary and secure. They may also temporarily help with a place for to stay while you build your own recovery plan.

The SBA may contact survivors with information about low-interest disaster loans for homeowners and renters after they apply for FEMA help. There's no obligation to accept a loan offer, but survivors may miss out on the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors if they don't complete an application.

You may also miss out on FEMA grants to replace certain household items, repair or replace a damaged vehicle and moving and storage costs. The only way FEMA can consider survivors for this help is if they submit a completed SBA disaster loan application.

Information about low-interest SBA disaster loans and application forms are available online at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). You may also call 800-659-2955 or email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. If you use TDD, call 800-877-8339.

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

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TDD call 800-462-7585.