

# FEMA Funeral Assistance for COVID-19

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. If your loved one passed away from COVID-19, you may be eligible for FEMA funeral reimbursement funds **up to \$9,000**.

For more information: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

## How to apply:

- COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number  
Applications begin on April 12, 2021  
**844-684-6333** | TTY: 800-462-7585
- Hours of Operation:  
Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time
- **NO ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**
- There is NO deadline to apply
- Visit the FEMA website to see what information you will need to provide during the application process.

## Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the **deceased** person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, it's encouraged to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- **An official death certificate** that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- **Funeral expenses documents** (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- **Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

## How Funds are Received

- If you are eligible for funeral assistance you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.

## FAQ

- Can a funeral home apply on behalf of the family?
  - NO - Funeral homes are not eligible to apply on behalf of a family or to be a co-applicant on the Funeral Assistance application. The person applying must be an individual, not a business, who incurred the funeral expenses.
- What funeral expenses are covered?
  - COVID-19 Funeral Assistance will assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation. Any receipts received for expenses that are not related to funeral services will not be determined eligible expenses. Expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation typically include, but are not limited to:
    - Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual
    - Transfer of remains
    - Casket or urn
    - Burial plot or cremation niche
    - Marker or headstone
    - Clergy or officiant services
    - Arrangement of the funeral ceremony
    - Use of funeral home equipment or staff
    - Cremation or interment costs
    - Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
    - Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances
- Are pre-planned and pre-paid funerals eligible for reimbursement if the individual died due to COVID-19?
  - NO - Any source of payment designated specifically to pay for a funeral in anticipation of a future death cannot be reimbursed under this assistance. This includes burial or funeral insurance, a pre-paid funeral contract, a pre-paid trust for funeral expenses, or an irrevocable trust for Medicare.
- Someone else helped me pay for funeral expenses. Can they apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance?
  - FEMA will generally only provide COVID-19 Funeral Assistance to one applicant per deceased individual.
  - To be approved for reimbursement of funeral expenses due to a COVID-19 fatality, you must have incurred funeral expenses for the deceased individual and have documentation (receipts, funeral home contracts, etc.) showing your name as the responsible party.

**Fraud Alert: FEMA has received reports of scammers reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and they do not contact people before they register for assistance.**