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State News Desk: (615) 741-0430  
FEMA News Desk: (843) 642-2441

# News Release

## **FEMA Disaster Grants Won't Affect Social Security or Other Benefits**

**NASHVILLE** – Applying for federal disaster assistance from FEMA will not affect other federal benefits that Tennessee disaster survivors may receive.

Residents in Davidson, Putnam and Wilson counties who register with FEMA may have questions about whether funds from FEMA might cause them to lose other federal payments to which they are entitled.

FEMA disaster grants are not taxable income. Accepting a FEMA grant will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and other federal welfare and entitlement programs.

Disaster grants help survivors pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, personal property replacement and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other sources.

Survivors can apply for disaster assistance in the following ways:

- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov).
- Download the FEMA App.
- Call **800-621-3362 (800-462-7585 TTY)**. Multilingual operators are available. The toll-free numbers are open daily 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. local time.

**The deadline to register with FEMA is May 4, 2020.**

For more information on Tennessee recovery, visit the disaster web page, [fema.gov/disaster/4476](https://fema.gov/disaster/4476) and the Tennessee Emergency Management website, [tn.gov/content/tn/tema.html](https://tn.gov/content/tn/tema.html).

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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 TTY call 800-462-7585.*

*FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for medical, dental, funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*