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## News Release

### You Have Until Dec. 9 to Apply for Federal Disaster Assistance

HONOLULU – The deadline to apply for federal disaster assistance has been extended another 30 days, meaning homeowners and renters with uninsured or underinsured damage to their property from the Maui wildfires have until **Saturday, Dec. 9**, to apply.

This is also the deadline for Maui’s homeowners, renters and businesses to apply to the U.S. Small Business Administration for a low-interest disaster loan for physical property damage.

“Registering with FEMA for Individual Assistance is the key that opens the door to many kinds of additional federal help, and we want to make sure everyone who is eligible for that aid has an opportunity to receive it,” said James Barros, Administrator of the Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency.

“The complexity of this event and the diversity of the Maui community created some obstacles to getting all of the people who need help signed up for federal assistance,” he added. “So we’re grateful that FEMA extended the registration deadline.”

FEMA provides funds that are paid directly to eligible individuals and households. Housing Assistance may include rental assistance, lodging expenses reimbursement, home repair assistance, and replacement assistance. All are explained as follows:

- **Rental Assistance** is financial assistance for homeowners and renters for temporary housing if the wildfires displaced you from your primary residence.
- **Lodging Expense Reimbursement** is reimbursement for out-of-pocket temporary lodging expenses resulting from damage that made your primary residence unlivable. Eligible lodging expenses may include the cost of the room and associated taxes.
- **Home Repair Assistance** is financial assistance for homeowners to repair their primary residences, utilities servicing that home, and residential infrastructure leading to your fire-damaged property.
- **Replacement Assistance** is financial assistance for any homeowner whose primary home was destroyed by the fires, and it can be applied to the purchase of a new permanent residence.
- **Other Needs Assistance** is financial assistance for other disaster-caused expenses and immediate essential needs. This assistance may include funds to replace personal property, moving and

storage expenses, transportation assistance, funeral, medical, dental, childcare, and miscellaneous disaster-related items.

To apply for FEMA disaster assistance, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster), use the [FEMA mobile app](#) or call the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**. If you use a video relay service, captioned telephone service or another service, give FEMA your number for that service when you apply. Helpline operators are available from **1 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week**, and they speak many languages. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

For an American Sign Language video on how to apply, go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU7wzRjByhl&list=PL720Kw\\_OoJlKOhtKG7HM\\_On\\_kEawus6FC&index=6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU7wzRjByhl&list=PL720Kw_OoJlKOhtKG7HM_On_kEawus6FC&index=6).

You may also visit any Disaster Recovery Center, where specialists can clarify information you have received from FEMA or other agencies. You can find a center here: [DRC Locator \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/drc-locator)

The primary source of federal funding for long-term disaster recovery not covered by insurance is the Small Business Administration. SBA offers disaster assistance in the form of low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters and businesses. SBA also provides eligible small businesses and nonprofit organizations with working capital to help overcome an economic injury.

SBA representatives are available at Disaster Recovery Centers and at the Business Recovery Centers on Maui, O'ahu, Kauai and Hawai'i to help applicants apply for disaster loans. Business Recovery Centers on Kauai and Hawai'i will close **Thursday, Nov. 9**.

SBA applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information, and download applications at <https://www.sba.gov/hawaii-wildfires>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information.

For people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or have a speech disability, dial **711** to access telecommunications relay services. Completed applications may also be mailed to **U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155**.

For the latest information on the Maui wildfire recovery efforts, visit [mauicounty.gov](https://www.mauicounty.gov), [mauirecovers.org](https://www.mauirecovers.org) and [fema.gov/disaster/4724](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4724). Follow FEMA on social media: [@FEMARegion9](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion9) and [facebook.com/fema](https://www.facebook.com/fema). You may also get disaster assistance information and download applications at [sba.gov/hawaii-wildfires](https://www.sba.gov/hawaii-wildfires).

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

*All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency and/or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.*