FEMA Updates the Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide

FEMA has updated the Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG), a comprehensive guide for all FEMA Individual Assistance programs. The updated IAPPG Version 1.1 includes several changes that incorporate additional assistance for disaster survivors, as authorized in the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, aligns policy to current processing guidance, addresses lessons learned from recent disasters and demonstrates FEMA’s commitment to providing assistance to under-served communities.

Major updates to the guide include:

- Clarifying assistance available to applicants residing in non-traditional housing.
- Delegating authority for rental assistance rate increases.
- Detailing new authorization and eligibility criteria for Critical Needs Assistance.
- Updating the real property verified loss threshold for direct housing referral criteria to $12 per square foot, from the previous $17,000 threshold, to capture a wider range of survivor circumstances regardless of event type, location, or size of their dwelling.

Changes authorized by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, include:

- Separate financial assistance maximum award amounts for Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance.
- Updated Multi-Family Lease and Repair property eligibility requirements.
- Specific disaster-damaged accessibility items covered under Home Repair or Personal Property Assistance are not limited to a financial maximum award. This means a survivor who lost their wheelchair would not have to decide between their critical equipment and housing repairs.
- Increases to the Group Flood Insurance Policy coverage and premium.
- Waiver authority for debts meeting specific criteria.

The guide provides a comprehensive policy resource for all stakeholders engaged in post-disaster recovery and can be found online at FEMA.gov. This version applies to all disasters declared on or after May 26, 2021 and will supersede the previous version of the IAPPG published in March 2019.
Contact Us
If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
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