



**PROGRAM INFORMATION  
WELFARE REFORM ACT RESTRICTION ON FEMA IA ASSISTANCE**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**For Undocumented Immigrants:**

**1. If I am an undocumented immigrant, am I eligible for assistance for disaster-related needs?**

- Yes, you may be eligible under many different programs run by state and local agencies and voluntary agencies for various types of cash assistance.

**2. If I am an undocumented immigrant, am I eligible for any assistance from FEMA?**

- You may be eligible for short-term, non-cash, emergency aid provided by FEMA.
- You will not be **personally** eligible for FEMA cash assistance programs (Individuals and Households Program Assistance); however, you may apply on behalf of your U.S. citizen child, or another adult household member may qualify the household for assistance.
- Even if you or your family does not qualify for FEMA cash assistance (Individuals and
- Households Program Assistance), please call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY for hearing/ speech-impaired) for information and to be referred to other programs that can assist you regardless of your immigration status.

**3. If I am an undocumented immigrant, can I apply on behalf of my child who was born in the United States?**

- You can apply on behalf of your minor child (under 18 years of age) for FEMA cash assistance (Individuals and Households Program Assistance) if you live together.
- You will not have to provide any information on your immigration status or sign any documents regarding your status.

**4. Do I need a Social Security Number to register for FEMA cash assistance (Individual and Households Program Assistance)?**

- If you are applying on your minor child's behalf, you should provide his/her Social Security Number.

**5. If I have a Social Security Number, am I eligible for FEMA cash assistance (Individuals and Households Program Assistance) as a “Qualified Alien”?**

- Not necessarily, because having a Social Security Number does not automatically mean that you are a Qualified Alien. You may be legally present in the U.S. and have a Social Security Number, but not be a Qualified Alien.

**6. What are FEMA’s citizenship/immigration requirements?**

- You must be a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien in order to be eligible for FEMA cash assistance programs: Individuals and Households Program Assistance and Disaster Unemployment Assistance.
- A Qualified Alien<sup>1</sup> includes anyone with legal permanent residence (“green card”).
- You will be asked to sign a Declaration and Release (FEMA Form 90-69 B) that you are a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien.
- If you cannot sign the Declaration and Release, another adult household member who is eligible can sign it and no information regarding your status will be gathered.
- If you cannot sign the Declaration and Release but you have a minor child who is a U.S. Citizen or a Qualified Alien residing with you, you can apply for assistance on your child’s behalf and no information regarding your status will be gathered. You will be asked to sign a declaration that your child is a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien.
- You do not have to be a U.S. Citizen or a Qualified Alien for Crisis Counseling or Disaster Legal Services or for other short-term, non-cash emergency assistance.

**(Footnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> A “Qualified Alien” includes anyone who has been granted legal permanent residence (“green card”), refugee or asylee status, withholding of deportation, conditional entry, parole into the U. S. for at least 1 year for humanitarian purposes; is a Cuban-Haitian Entrant; or has a pending or approved petition for relief based on battery or extreme cruelty by a family member.