

# COVID-19 RELATED FUNERAL EXPENSES

Help paying for COVID-19-related funeral expenses is available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

## Who is eligible?

To be eligible for funeral assistance:

- The death must have happened in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must say that the death was related to or caused by COVID-19.
- The person applying for assistance must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who was responsible for 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.

## What can this assistance help pay for?

Funeral assistance can pay for things like the service, internment, cremation, a casket or urn, burial plot, marker or headstone, etc. for up to \$9,000 per funeral. More information is available on FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq](http://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq).

## How are funds received?

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

For more information on who can apply for funeral assistance, examples of covered expenses, and other information on the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program, visit the FEMA Funeral Assistance FAQ page: [www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq](http://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq).

## 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 prior to them registering for assistance.

## How to apply:

### Step 1: Decide who the applicant and co-applicant will be.

Families should begin by deciding who the applicant and any co-applicant will be. Only two people's names can be on an application.

### Step 2: Prepare all of the necessary documents.

The applicant needs to have all of the necessary documents before calling the toll-free COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line.

- **A certified death certificate\*** that says the person's death was from or related to COVID-19. This includes death certificates that say the person's death "may have been caused by" or "was likely a result of" COVID-19 or "COVID-19 like symptoms" or similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19.
- **Funeral expense documents** (e.g., itemized receipts, a funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- **Proof of other funds received**, if the family received assistance from another source (e.g., Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program funds, military service-related reimbursements, etc.).

### Step 3: Call the toll-free COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line.

A FEMA representative will help you complete an application.

- Different languages are available when you call to apply.
- **Online applications will not be accepted.**

**COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line**  
Applications begin April 12, 2021  
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

**Hours of Operation**  
Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. *Central Time*

### Submitting Documents to FEMA

- **Certified death certificate**
  - The death certificate must be put in the mail.
  - Copies of death certificates (including scans, uploads, and faxes) are not allowed in the state of Wisconsin. Since it is not legal to copy them, applicants must physically mail a certified death certificate.
  - Mailed documents will not be returned.
- **Proof of funeral expenses and other funds received:** Families can provide receipts and proof of other funeral assistance to FEMA by uploading them to the applicant's [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) account, by fax, or by mail.

\*It is against the law in the state of Wisconsin to reproduce (copy) a death certificate. Applicants must obtain a certified death certificate from the Register of Deeds Office and physically mail it to FEMA. Documents that are mailed will not be returned. Applicants are encouraged to order additional certified death certificates at the time they request the first certified death certificate. The first certified death certificate costs \$20, and it's \$3 for each additional certified death certificate. [These costs are eligible for reimbursement through the funeral assistance program.](#) For help contacting your local county Register of Deeds office, visit [www.wrdaonline.org](https://www.wrdaonline.org).