



FEMA

Oct. 02, 2024

DR-4828-FL NR 006

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## News Release

### Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Leon and Suwannee Counties Now Eligible for FEMA Assistance After Hurricane Helene

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Homeowners and renters in Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Leon and Suwannee counties who had uninsured damage or loss caused by Hurricane Helene can apply for FEMA [disaster assistance](#).

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. Previously, Charlotte, Citrus, Dixie, Franklin, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Taylor and Wakulla counties were authorized for assistance to individuals and households.

If you applied to FEMA after Hurricane Debby and have additional damage from Hurricane Helene, you will need to apply separately for Helene and provide the dates of your most recent damage. Apply for either storm online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov). You can also apply using the [FEMA mobile app](#) or by calling FEMA's helpline toll-free at **800-621-3362**. Lines are open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

#### What You'll Need When You Apply

- A current phone number where you can be contacted.
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying.
- Your Social Security number.
- A general list of damage and losses.
- Banking information if you choose direct deposit.
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the company name.

Learn more at [fema.gov/disaster/4828](https://fema.gov/disaster/4828)

If you have homeowners, renters or flood insurance, you should file a claim as soon as possible. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If your policy does not cover all your disaster expenses, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

For the latest information about Florida's recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4828](https://fema.gov/disaster/4828). Follow FEMA on X at [x.com/femaregion4](https://x.com/femaregion4) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/fema](https://facebook.com/fema).

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

*FEMA is committed to ensuring disaster assistance is accomplished equitably, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Any disaster survivor or member of the public may contact the FEMA Office of Civil Rights if they feel that they have a complaint of discrimination. FEMA's Office of Civil Rights can be contacted at FEMA-OCR@fema.dhs.gov or toll-free at 833-285-7448.*