

## 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires

# HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS AFTER A DISASTER

### I am an immigrant and a survivor of a natural disaster. What help can I get from FEMA?

If the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) comes to your area after a disaster you can get help. Your immigration status does not matter for these kinds of help:

- Finding people who are lost
- Emergency shelter, food, and water
- Transportation
- Emergency supplies (medicine, clothing, etc.)
- Crisis counseling and disaster case management

Visit [recovery.lacounty.gov](https://recovery.lacounty.gov) and [ca.gov/LAfires/](https://ca.gov/LAfires/) to find out how to access support and resources.

You can also call 211.

### Will getting help for myself or my children affect my immigration status?

No. Getting disaster help will not make you ineligible for citizenship or lawful permanent residence (getting a green card).

### What if I'm undocumented, but my child or another member of my household is a U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant?

Your household may be eligible for assistance if another adult household member meets the eligibility criteria and certifies their citizenship status OR if your child lives with you and is under 18, you can apply for FEMA benefits for them.

Tell FEMA that you want the services only for your child and not for yourself. You are not required to provide your Social Security number. You do not need to provide any information about your immigration status.

### What other help can I get after a disaster?

There is some long-term disaster help from FEMA that is only available to U.S. citizens or "qualified immigrants":

- Temporary rental housing
- Help with lodging expenses
- Repair and replacement of destroyed housing
- Replacement of lost items
- Medical and funeral costs
- Small Business Administration loans

"Qualified Immigrants" who can get this help:

- Lawful permanent residents (people who have green cards)
- Refugees, people granted asylum, or people granted "withholding of removal/deportation"
- People paroled into the U.S. for at least 1 year
- Cuban or Haitian entrants
- Certain survivors of domestic violence
- Trafficking survivors
- COFA citizens (Republic of Palau, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands)

### Important Reminders

Red Cross can provide assistance and will not ask about your immigration status. Red Cross has its own process to determine whether your home has serious damage. Call: 1-800-733-2767.

- You can also call the multilingual Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

Ask for an interpreter if you do not speak English. An interpreter should be provided at no cost. Many agencies that help disaster survivors are required to provide interpreters.

Never provide false information. This can cause you trouble and may affect your chance of getting U.S. citizenship or a green card.