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COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

To offset some of the burden brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses. COVID-19 related deaths incurred after January 20, 2020, may be eligible for up to \$9,000 in funeral costs and reimbursement. To begin the application, interested parties must contact FEMA's Helpline at 800-462-7585. For additional information about the COVID-19 funeral assistance program visit www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq.

Monasia Ceasar

Health Compliance Specialist

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.



To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien who incurred 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.
- The deceased person's death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19. If a death occurred between Jan. 20 and May 16, 2020, and the death certificate doesn't attribute the death to COVID-19, include a signed statement from the death certificate's certifying official, local coroner or medical examiner that links the cause of death to COVID-19.

Which expenses will qualify for reimbursement?

Examples of eligible expenses may include, but not limited to:

- Transportation to identify the deceased individual
- The transfer of remains
- A burial plot or cremation niche
- A marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- The use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs

What information do I need to provide to FEMA?

Please have the following information before contacting FEMA to apply:

- Name, social security number, date of birth, mailing address and contact phone numbers.
- Name, social security number and date of birth for each deceased individual.
- Location or address where the deceased individual passed away.
- Documentation and receipts for any assistance already received from other sources, including burial or funeral insurance, donations, voluntary agencies, other government programs or non-profit organizations.
- The name and information of any co-applicant(s) if anyone besides yourself incurred funeral expenses for the deceased individual(s).

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THIS ASSISTANCE?

Call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at 1-844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday – Friday and begin the application process.

For fastest service following your application, you can begin submitting documentation online through [Disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov), by fax 855-261-3452.

You can also visit us online at [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq). Information is provided in several languages both by telephone and the website.

Documents may also be mailed to:
COVID-19 Funeral Assistance
P.O. Box 10001
Hyattsville, MD 20782



FEMA



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
150 Mt. Vernon Street, 1st Floor
Dorchester, MA 02125

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE
Acting Commissioner

Tel: 617-740-2600
www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs

November 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to families, and in many cases, a financial crisis that increases their burden. I am writing to inform you about an important financial benefit from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), that you or your family may be eligible for.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is **providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses**, incurred after January 20, 2020. You are receiving this letter because you are listed as a person who provided information to the State of Massachusetts regarding a COVID-19 related death certificate.

If you paid COVID-19 related funeral expenses, you may be eligible for financial reimbursement from the FEMA Funeral Assistance Program. If you were not the individual that paid for funeral expenses, please pass along this information to those that did.

Over 5,500 Massachusetts families have already taken advantage of this benefit and received up to \$9,000 in funeral costs, by contacting **FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline**. For those families that have not taken advantage of this benefit, we encourage you to call the dedicated toll-free phone number below to get help from FEMA's representatives. **Every application must begin with a call to FEMA's Helpline. There is no online application.** Multilingual services are available.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline

844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Additional information about COVID-19 funeral assistance, including frequently asked questions, is provided in the enclosed flyer, and is available on

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>.

Information about ordering a copy of, or correcting, a death certificate from the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics can be found at www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs or by calling (617) 740-2600.

Sincerely,

Karin A. Barrett
Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics