

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 11, 2021

TO: Job Center and HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) Staff

FROM: James K. Whelan, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Office of Policy, Procedures, and Training

SUBJECT: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

This Center Director (CD) Memorandum informs Job Center and HASA staff that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, has begun providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020, for deaths specifically related to coronavirus (COVID-19). This procedure also identifies the impact receipt of these funds has on eligibility for the applicants and/or recipients of Cash Assistance (CA).

The program is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation, up to a maximum of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application. **Staff are advised that if an applicant for or recipient of Cash Assistance (CA) benefits receives FEMA funeral reimbursement and the funds remain available to them, these monies must be considered as a resource in initial or on-going eligibility determinations.**

To qualify to receive FEMA funded COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, the following conditions have to be met:

- The FEMA applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien. There is no such requirement for the decedent.
- The death occurred in the U.S., including U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- FEMA must be able to verify the applicant's identity.
- Funeral expenses must be incurred by the applicant on or after January 20, 2020.
- A medical examiner, coroner, or other certifier indicated that COVID-19 played a role in the decedent's death on the death certificate.

- Applicants may also submit a statement or letter from the death certificate’s certifying official, medical examiner or coroner that attributes the death to COVID-19 fatalities that occurred between January 20, 2020 through May 16, 2020.
- No other applicant received Funeral Assistance funds for the same decedent.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance is administered to eligible applicants directly by FEMA, funded entirely at the federal level (i.e., no funds are earmarked to the State or local governments for disbursement). As a result, individuals seeking to complete a COVID-19 Funeral Assistance application must contact FEMA directly by calling the dedicated toll-free phone number helpline. Multilingual services will be available. Staff are not able to apply on behalf of an individual, and no online applications will be accepted.

<p>FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline: 844-684-6333 TTY: 800-462-7585</p>	<p>Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time</p>
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For more information, including a listing of what documentation an individual will need to have ready prior to calling, please access the FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance FAQ at: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance/faq>.

FEMA has provided the attached public facing flyers about the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program. Staff is encouraged to display these flyers in their waiting area.

Reference:
GIS 21 TA/DC052

Attachments:
Attachment A - Funeral Assistance Flyer
Attachment B - Funeral Assistance Flyer

Did you pay funeral costs after losing someone due to COVID-19?



We may be able to help with funeral assistance.

Learn more at [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov) or call (844) 684-6333 to get started.



FEMA

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, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19.
- 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.

Which expenses will qualify for reimbursement?

Examples of eligible expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation may include, but not limited to:

- Transportation for up to two people to identify the deceased individual
- The transfer of remains, a casket or urn
- A burial plot or cremation niche
- A marker or headstone
- Clergy or officiant services
- The arrangement of a funeral ceremony
- The use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing multiple death certificates

What information do I need to provide to FEMA?

Please have the following information before contacting FEMA to apply:

- Your name, social security number, date of birth, mailing address and contact phone numbers.
- The name, social security number and date of birth for each deceased individual.
- The 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.
- If you and another person both incurred funeral expenses for the same deceased individual(s), you can also provide that person as a co-applicant – include their name, social security number and date of birth on the application.

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.

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.



FEMA