

# Daily Fact Sheet 019

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## Key Messages

- FEMA has approved \$ **3,596,884** to help individuals and families in Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford and Somerset counties recover from the December 17-21, 2023 severe storm and flooding.
- Assistance may include grants for temporary housing, uninsured or underinsured home repairs and personal property, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the disaster.
- 10 Disaster Survivor Assistance crews have canvassed in the following locations: Athens, Belgrade, Byron, Canton, Chesterville, Dixfield, Fairfield, Fryeburg, Gilead, Greenwood, Hanover, Hartford, Leeds, Lewiston, Lincoln Plantation, Lovell, Madison, Manchester, Mercer, Milton Township, Monmouth, Mount Vernon, New Portland, Newry, Oakland, Oxford, Paris, Peru, Pittston, Readfield, Salem, Smithfield, Stoneham, Sumner, Turner, Vassalboro, Wales, Waterford, West Gardiner, West Paris and Woodstock.
- To date, 1,750 survivors have applied for FEMA assistance.

## Disaster Recovery Centers

Disaster Recovery Centers provide information from Maine state agencies, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Survivors can visit to get help applying for federal assistance, update applications and learn about available resources.

Centers are now open **9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday** at:

- Manchester (Kennebec County): Manchester Fire Department, 18 Readfield Road
- Farmington (Franklin County): University of Maine – Roberts Learning Center, 270 Main St.
- Lewiston (Androscoggin County): 65 Central Ave
- Rumford (Oxford County): 150 River Street
- Skowhegan (Somerset County): 4 County Drive

## How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

- To apply for FEMA assistance:
  - Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov);



**FEMA**

- Download the [FEMA App](#); or,
- Call **1-800-621-3362**. Help is available in most languages. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or another relay service, give FEMA your number for that service when you call. Phone lines operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week.
- The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is April 1.
- When you apply, have the following information ready:
  - The Social Security number for the head of household/applicant and any co-applicant;
  - The address and phone number where you are staying; and,
  - A description of damage to your home.
- Be sure to share updates with FEMA so we can continue to review your case.

### Understanding Your FEMA Letter

- If you applied for assistance, you will receive a letter from FEMA explaining the status of your application.
- Read your letter carefully. If you are found ineligible, the letter will explain why, and how you can appeal.
- Questions about your letter can be answered by calling **800-621-3362** or visiting a Disaster Recovery Center

### Mold Cleanup Tips

- Use protective equipment, including gloves, a mask and goggles, to protect your eyes, nose, mouth and skin.
- Dry everything. Open all doors and windows when you are working, and leave as many open as you safely can when you leave.
- Circulate the air with fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture.
- Anything that was wet and couldn't be cleaned and dried completely within 48 hours should be bagged, sealed, and taken outside.
- When possible, move items outside to clean.
- Scrub hard surfaces smaller than a door with water and detergent. Large hard surfaces or surfaces made of porous material, such as carpet, fabric and wood, should be thrown out.

- Keep indoor humidity low, below 60 percent (ideally between 30 and 50 percent). Measure humidity with a moisture or humidity meter, available at many hardware stores.
- Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent it from growing. Clean up all the mold before you paint.

### Disaster Unemployment Assistance

- Employees or self-employed individuals in Maine who became unemployed as a direct result of this severe storm and flooding may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).
- To be eligible for DUA, the individual must be determined ineligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under any state or federal law. Claimants must first apply for state unemployment benefits by visiting [Maine Department of Labor's Bureau of Unemployment Insurance self-service portal](#).
- An application must be submitted by **March 4, 2024**. Claims filed after this deadline may be ineligible.
- Those eligible for DUA are encouraged to also apply for federal assistance.

### U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

- SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors. Businesses, homeowners, renters, and certain nonprofits that were affected may apply online for low-interest disaster loans using SBA's secure website at [DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s/](#). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov) for more information. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call **800-877-8339**.

### Get More Information

- For additional online resources as well as FEMA downloadable pamphlets and other aids, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](#) and click "Information."
- For official information about the Maine recovery effort, visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4754](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4754).

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

*All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, you can call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.*