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## **News Release**

## FEMA Assistance for Cook County Survivors Tops \$20 Million with One Month Left to Apply

**CHICAGO** – FEMA assistance for Cook County survivors affected by the Sept. 17-18 severe storms and flooding has topped **\$20 million**.

- More than 6,500 households have been approved for FEMA grants, including:
  - o \$17.8 million in housing grants, including short-term rental assistance and home repair costs.
  - Nearly \$2.4 million approved for other essential disaster-related needs, such as expenses related to medical, dental, and lost personal possessions.
- More than 10,300 home inspections have been completed.
- 1,586 Cook County homeowners and renters have visited four Disaster Recovery Centers.
- FEMA's Disaster Survivor Assistance crews have visited more than **14,084** homes and **1,098** businesses and helped **200** households apply for assistance.

## One Month Left to Apply for FEMA Assistance

Residents of Cook County with uninsured or under insured losses from the Sept. 17-18 severe storms and flooding have until **January 19, 2024**, to apply for assistance.

There are several ways to apply:

- Visit <u>DisasterAssistance.gov</u>.
- Use the FEMA mobile app.

- Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362. Multilingual operators are available. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.
- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center. The centers serve as one-stop shops for survivors who need one-on-one help. Survivors can visit any center for assistance. To find center locations and current hours, visit FEMA.gov/DRC.

## Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available for Cook County Survivors

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for Cook County residents who lost employment or selfemployment as a result of the Sept. 17-18 severe storms and flooding. Call the Illinois Department of Employment Security at 217-558-0401 to make an appointment to apply. The last day to apply for DUA benefits is Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023. For more information, visit https://ides.illinois.gov/newsroom/2023/nov/ides-accepting-disasterunemployment-assistance-applications-aft.html.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. For more information about Cook County's recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4749.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Reasonable accommodations, including translation and American Sign Language interpreters will be available to ensure effective communication with applicants with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and access and functional needs. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.