



## Funeral Assistance

Under the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) provision of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Individuals and Households Program, and in conjunction with the state, tribe, or territory, an applicant may qualify for certain eligible funeral expenses.

Funeral assistance may be granted to a survivor as financial assistance to help with the cost of uninsured expenses associated with a death attributed to a presidentially declared emergency or major disaster. Financial assistance may also be provided for reinterment expenses if the disaster related disinterment occurred on a private property (e.g., family cemetery). Graves disinterred in public or commercial cemeteries are not eligible for FEMA reinterment assistance.

After a presidentially declared major disaster that includes IHP, an applicant must provide the following documentation to be considered for assistance:

- A signed statement from an authoritative state, local, tribal, or territorial licensed medical official such as the Medical Examiner or Coroner, stating the deceased's death, underlying injury causing the death, or disinterment was a direct-result of the disaster.
- Receipts or verifiable estimates for funeral or reinterment expenses. The receipts or verifiable estimates must indicate that the applicant is the individual who paid or will pay the expenses.
- Documentation of burial insurance and/or any forms of funeral or reinterment assistance from voluntary agencies (e.g., Red Cross) or state, local, tribal, or territorial, or other government agencies (e.g., Social Security Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).
- A death certificate of the deceased.

### **Eligible Expenses**

An applicant may receive assistance for:

- Transportation of up to two individuals to identify the deceased, if such identification is required by state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities
- Funeral services, which may include transfer of remains; use of facilities; staff for viewing; funeral ceremony or memorial service; use of equipment; staff for graveside service; use of hearse/funeral coach
- Clergy or officiant service
- Up to five death certificates
- Casket or urn
- Burial plot or cremation niche
- Marker or headstone

## **Ineligible Expenses**

An applicant may not receive assistance for:

- Obituaries
- Flowers
- Any printed materials such as programs, banners, and register books
- Transportation of relatives or others to gravesite
- Catering services, including food
- Gratuities

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*FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

*May 2016*