



FEMA

October 2, 2022

Ms. Melissa Shirah
Alternate Governor's Authorized Representative
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, Florida 32311

Re: DR-4673-FL Critical Needs Assistance

Dear Ms. Shirah:

This letter responds to the State of Florida's request, dated October 1, 2022, for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Critical Needs Assistance (CNA) under the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for FEMA-DR-4673-FL for residents in Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Osceola, Sarasota, Seminole, and Volusia Counties. Section 408(e)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 206.119(c)(6)(ii) authorize FEMA to provide assistance for necessary expenses or serious needs resulting from a major disaster.

FEMA has approved the request for Critical Needs Assistance. Thus, assistance will be provided to eligible applicants under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Grant 97.050, "Other Needs Assistance – Miscellaneous Other" category within the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), who register within 14 days from the date Individual Assistance is authorized for the disaster. Eligible applicants include those who have immediate or critical needs because they are displaced from their primary residence or who need assistance in order to leave their pre-disaster primary residence to temporarily shelter elsewhere. Immediate or critical needs are life-saving and life-sustaining items including, but not limited to: water, food, first aid, prescriptions, infant formula, diapers, consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, personal hygiene items, and fuel for transportation.

Pursuant to FP 104-009-03, *Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Version 1.1, Chapter 3, Section VI.B.6.*, CNA may be authorized for specific geographic areas (i.e., counties or ZIP codes) will be authorized for FEMA-DR-4673-FL in Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Osceola, Sarasota, Seminole, and Volusia Counties when:

1. Applicants are displaced due to restrictions placed by the state, local, territorial, or tribal government officials (e.g., evacuation advisory, inaccessibility);
2. Shelters in the area do not meet the needs of the displaced population; and

3. Community and life-sustaining services within a reasonable distance from the area are limited due to the disaster-caused impact.

Additionally, for FEMA-DR-4673-FL, CNA will be provided at an increased award amount of \$700 per eligible household and will be awarded as a one-time award when all of the following apply:

- They pass FEMA's identity and occupancy verification process;
- They are displaced from their pre-disaster primary residence as a result of the disaster or they are sheltering in their pre-disaster residence and report a need to shelter elsewhere at registration;
- At registration, they assert they have critical needs and request financial assistance for those needs and expenses;
- Their pre-disaster primary residence is located in a designated geographic area approved for CNA;
- They report damage that may impact the habitability of their home; and
- All high-risk fraud indicators associated with the registration are resolved.

CNA will be provided pre-inspection for all applicants who meet standard IHP and CNA eligibility criteria. Applicants who have eligibility issues will not be paid until post-inspection and will only be awarded assistance once all eligibility issues have been resolved. CNA is implemented under the ONA provision of the IHP, any assistance awarded for CNA is subject to a 25 percent cost share with the State of Florida.

All other criteria outlined the Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Version 1.1, Chapter 3, Section VI.B.6 remain in effect. If you have additional question on this program, please contact Khin Htwe at (202)394-0642 or khin.htwe.2@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. McCool
Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA-4673-DR-FL