

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW about the FEMA Funeral & Cemetery Assistance Program

Handout courtesy of:  ICCFA

What you need to know:

- The applicant must be a US citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, for a death attributed to COVID-19.
- If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral or cemetery expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral or cemetery expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.
- An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the US territories and the District of Columbia.
- This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral, including cemetery expenses, and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.
- Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services, interment, cremation AND cemetery expenses.
- Applications can only be made once so the families should make all of their purchases/agreements before submitting.

What you'll need to provide:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the US. The death certificate must indicate the death “may have been caused by” or “was likely the result of” COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.
- Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, cemetery contract, etc.) that include the applicant’s name, the deceased individual’s name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses were incurred.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

For updates and additional information, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

*This handout is based off of FEMA guidance provided on March 24, 2021.