

# Child Care Assistance

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Section 408(e) of The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5121 et. Seq., gives FEMA the authority to award Child Care Assistance through the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) provision of the Individuals and Households Program (IHP).

Child Care Assistance covers standard child care service fees and personal assistance services that support activities of daily living for individuals with disabilities. Assistance may be available for **up to eight weeks** per child per household. The maximum amount for child care for Kentuckians is \$1,260 per child.

## Eligibility Criteria

FEMA Child Care Assistance addresses disaster-related expenses for eligible households with children who are under the age of 13 or households with children with a disability up to age 21, who need assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring (walking) and continence. Eligibility begins on the date of the incident period for the declared disaster and continues through the end of the **18-month period** of assistance unless the time is extended. Child care registration fees and health inventory fees are eligible expenses for applicants who require a new child care service provider.

- A registration fee is a one-time fee when registering an eligible child at an authorized child care provider.
- A health inventory fee is a medical office fee for processing required medical paperwork as part of the registration process.

To qualify for Child Care Assistance, the general conditions must be met for FEMA individual assistance eligibility, and the applicant must have necessary expenses (child care facility damaged or inoperable) caused by the disaster. In addition to meeting the general conditions of eligibility as a direct result of the disaster, households must have a disaster-caused increase in financial burden for child care.

- The applicant's gross household income has decreased; or
- The applicant's child care expenses have increased.

Households must certify they cannot utilize child care services provided by any other source to qualify for Child Care Assistance. Households must submit documents showing a disaster-caused need for Child Care Assistance and amount of eligible expenses.

## Documents Required

- Pre- and post-disaster gross household income documentation
- Pre-disaster receipts, contract, or signed letter from the child care provider for child care expenses;
- Post-disaster receipts or estimates for child care fees, registration, and/or health inventory fees;

- A post-disaster child care provider's license and post-disaster child care contract or agreement;
- Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), 504 plan, or a medical professional's statement, if applicable, to verify disability for children up to age 21 who need assistance;
- A signed, written statement from the applicant.

## Limitation and Exclusions

If a child is a member of multiple households, FEMA will only award Child Care Assistance to the primary custodial parent or guardian responsible for child care FEMA will not help with any of the following:

- Fees for extra-curricular activities, educational services and additional services;
- Fees not related to the day-to-day child care services provided to the eligible child;
- Fuel expenses related to transporting the child to and from the child care provider;
- Medical care or services;
- Recreational camps or clubs.

Households who did not have child care expenses pre-disaster but have incurred or will incur child care expenses because of the disaster may also be eligible but must meet additional eligibility requirements.

For more information about Kentucky flooding recovery, visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4860](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4860) and [www.fema.gov/disaster/4864](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4864). Follow the FEMA Region 4 X account at [x.com/femaregion4](https://x.com/femaregion4).

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