

DISASTER RELIEF RESOURCES OCTOBER 2017

The Immigrant Legal Resources Center (ILRC), with help from National Immigration Law Center (NILC) and the Governor's Office, has prepared this list of disaster-related resources:

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

- Gives food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damage caused by a natural disaster
- Available regardless of immigration status
- For more information
 - D-SNAP Program Overview: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance/forms-of-assistance/5769>
 - D-SNAP Guidance: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/D-SNAP_handbook_0.pdf
- In general, short-term non-cash disaster assistance is available regardless of status

FEMA Longer Term Assistance (e.g. Individuals and Household Program)

- Provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs
- Available if at least one household member is a U.S. citizen or a “qualified” immigrant. For example, undocumented individuals can apply on behalf of a minor child who is a citizen and has a social security number. FEMA can provide information about obtaining a social security number for a minor child. The minor child must live with the parent/guardian applying on his/her behalf.
- For more information
 - FEMA Citizenship/Immigration Requirements FAQ (December 2, 2015): <https://www.fema.gov/faq-details/FEMA-Citizenship-Immigration-requirements-1370032118159>
 - FEMA Individuals and Households Program Fact Sheet <https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1502371943459-711a17671708a7ded53f0b22315f2597/FACTSHEETIndividualsandHouseholdIHP.pdf>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

- Requires that a person be work authorized (and have been work authorized or PRUCOL during the base period)
- For more information
 - National Employment Law Project (NELP) DUA FAQ: <http://www.nelp.org/publication/how-workers-access-dua-after-hurricane-irma/>

Other Major Benefits Programs

- Major benefit programs tend to be more flexible about requiring documentation immediately after a disaster – but may require applicants to declare that they have an eligible status – so applicants need to be careful.
- For more information about current California eligibility
 - NILC Major Benefits Programs chart: <https://www.nilc.org/issues/economic-support/programs-available-to-immigrants-in-calif/>

State Emergency Services

- California's [AB 2327](#) (among other things) requires that public employees provide assistance to survivors of disaster without eliciting any information or documentation not strictly necessary to determine eligibility

NILC's Disaster Assistance Resources

- NILC will be updating these shortly
 - [Food, Shelter, Cash Payments, Loans, and Other Help for Victims of Major Disasters](#)
 - [Immigrant Eligibility for Disaster Assistance](#)

Funds and Services on the Ground Compiled by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR)

- Links to funds available and organizations in the region to support
 - <https://www.gcir.org/initiatives/natural-disaster-response>

Replacing Vital Records and Other Disaster Assistance and Recovery Links from LawHelp

- Information on how to replace identification, birth, marriage and death certificates, etc.
- Guide to insurance legal rights, claim guidance and more
- For more information
 - <http://www.lawhelpca.org/subtopics/disaster-assistance-and-recovery>

Evacuation Centers/Shelters

- Several local officials have made public statements to make clear that these shelters are open to everyone regardless of immigration status
- The list includes many churches and schools that are hopefully seen as trusted spaces
- For more information including a list of evacuation centers
 - <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/ICESite/Pages/October-2017-Northern-California-Fires.aspx>

Campsite Evacuation Spaces

- Although these campsites in Sonoma and Mendocino counties are not official evacuation sites, they will be open to meet the temporary immediate needs of displaced residents.
- They only accommodate those who are self-contained. Those who need food, bedding and personal services should contact a designated evacuation center.
- For more information
 - http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29743