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# News Release

## **Hermine Survivors: Assistance Still Available, 14 Days Left to Register for Federal Disaster Aid**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Survivors rebuilding their lives from Hurricane Hermine have **14 days left to register** for federal disaster assistance. The storm caused widespread damage along Florida's western coastline, and the State of Florida, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) continue to support individual and family recovery efforts.

Individuals who have underinsured or uninsured damages or losses from Hurricane Hermine and who live in the **11** eligible counties **still have until Monday, Nov. 28**, to register for FEMA assistance. The counties included in the federal disaster declaration are **Citrus, Dixie, Hernando, Hillsborough, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Taylor and Wakulla**.

Register online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling **800-621-3362**, which is Video Relay Service (VRS) accessible. Survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have difficulty speaking may call **TTY 800-462-7585**. Helpline hours are **7 a.m. to 10 p.m.**, seven days a week, until further notice. Multilingual operators are available (press **2** for Spanish).

Don't wait to register. Applying for federal disaster assistance now may help if you still have unmet needs after receiving your insurance payment. While FEMA cannot duplicate assistance covered by insurance, you may still be eligible for assistance for losses *not* covered by insurance. The maximum amount of assistance FEMA can legally provide is limited. FEMA grants do not have to be repaid, are nontaxable and do not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other federal benefits.

Make sure to complete and return the SBA loan application if you receive one. There is no charge to apply for the loan and no obligation to accept it, if approved. Second to insurance, SBA low-interest disaster loans are the primary source of financial assistance to rebuild disaster-damaged private property for homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private nonprofit organizations. A completed SBA loan application is also an important step in order to qualify for other state and FEMA grants that cover personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, moving and storage expenses and other help.

Disaster loans up to **\$200,000** are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for **\$40,000** to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed personal property. If SBA does not offer a homeowner or renter a loan, they are

referred to FEMA for possible additional grant consideration. Businesses and private nonprofit organizations can borrow up to **\$2 million** for disaster-related losses.

For more information on Florida's disaster recovery visit [fema.gov/disaster/4280](https://fema.gov/disaster/4280), [twitter.com/FEMA](https://twitter.com/FEMA), [facebook.com/FEMA](https://facebook.com/FEMA), and [fema.gov/blog](https://fema.gov/blog), [floridadisaster.org](https://floridadisaster.org) or #FLRecovers.

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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.*

*The SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling **800-659-2955**, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call **800-877-8339**.*