

Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)

FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance program provides assistance under emergency or major disaster declarations that include federal assistance to individuals and households under Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), and emergency sheltering pursuant to either Section 403 or 502 of the Stafford Act.

FEMA contracts with a lodging services provider to administer the program. The TSA Unit ensures TSA is administered in an equitable and impartial manner, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.

FEMA may authorize TSA under any of the following conditions:

- The current shelter capacity does not meet the sheltering needs of the displaced population.
- Congregate sheltering support resources are inadequate to sustain existing shelter needs.
- There is a need to return facilities serving as congregate shelters to their pre-disaster use.
- Rental resources are not sufficiently available and/or priced within fair market rent standards to meet the needs of the displaced population within the affected area.

The Individual Assistance Division Director (IADD) may approve the initial period of TSA for not less than 30 days and up to 180 days from the date of the disaster declaration. If the IADD authorizes TSA for less than the maximum 180-day period of assistance, the Regional Administrator (RA) has the authority to extend TSA for any remaining days up to the maximum 180-day period.

TSA is authorized for displaced registrants with a disaster caused longer need for emergency sheltering that meet the conditions of initial eligibility criteria. The initial period of TSA assistance is 30 days.

State, Tribal, or Territorial Governments (STT) must submit their written request for TSA through the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and Regional Administrator (RA) to the Individual Assistance Division Director (IADD) at FEMA Headquarters (HQ). A signed letter with the FCO's recommendation and RA's concurrence must be included. The request should also include the specific length of time the STT is requesting TSA be made available, to include justification for requested duration and identification of the IA designated counties for which the STT is requesting TSA. FEMA, in coordination with the STT, will conduct an analysis to identify the locations of participating hotels, motels, or other facilities to be utilized for TSA.



FEMA

FEMA will conduct continued eligibility reviews throughout the TSA activation. Generally, the first eligibility review will be conducted 14 days from the date of TSA activation to allow timely registrant notification. In addition to all initial and continued eligibility criteria, additional factors will be considered at each eligibility review period.

TSA will end when any of the following conditions are met:

- The STT does not request an extension prior to the end of the authorized TSA period of assistance.
- The RA denies an extension request beyond the authorized TSA period of assistance.
- The period of assistance reaches 180-days from the date of declaration.

AUTHORITIES and REFERENCES

Authorities

A. Section 403, 42 U.S.C. 5107b, Essential Assistance, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended.

B. Section 408, 42 U.S.C. 5174, Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended.

C. Section 502, 42 U.S.C. 5192, Federal Emergency Assistance, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended.

References

A. FEMA Policy #104-009-20, Transitional Sheltering Assistance (Interim), August 2020

B. FEMA Policy 104-009-03, Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide Version 1.1, May 2021

Policies do not have the force and effect of law, except as authorized by law or as incorporated into a contract.