



# FEMA

# FACT SHEET

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS

**Background:** Before, during and after hurricanes, floods and other major disasters, the welfare and safety of non-U.S. citizen survivors may be jeopardized if, due to their immigration status they:

- Refuse or do not understand guidance and direction from emergency management authorities concerning voluntary or mandatory evacuations or protective measures.
- Fear taking advantage of emergency shelters, whether provided by voluntary agencies, faith-based organizations, or government.
- Fail to utilize many services provided to evacuees and victims by voluntary agencies, faith-based organizations or government.

➤ **All persons, regardless of citizenship status, are eligible to receive the following non-cash services:**

### Mass Care

- **Sheltering**
- **Feeding**
- **Distribution of Emergency Relief Supplies**
- **Basic First Aid**
- **Disaster Welfare Information**

### Emergency Assistance

- **Mass Evacuation**
- **Family Reunification**
- **Household Pets and Service Animals**
- **Crisis Counseling**
- **Disaster Legal Services**
- **Functional Needs (Special Needs), Medical and Non-conventional Sheltering**
- **Voluntary Organization Assistance**
- **Disaster Case Management**

#### NOTE ON CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

U.S. law requires that one must be a U.S. Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or a Qualified Alien to be eligible for FEMA *cash assistance programs*, including the Individuals and Households Program and Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

### PREPAREDNESS TIPS

- When traveling to the United States, visitors are encouraged to **register contact information and travel plans** with their country's Embassy or Consulate.
- In the event of a disaster or impending threat, everyone must be prepared to **respond to directions from local government authorities.**
- To **locate lost loved ones during a disaster**, FEMA encourages visitors to use the American Red Cross Safe and Well website, [www.safeandwell.org](http://www.safeandwell.org), and/or the FEMA National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (1-800-588-9822), when activated during a disaster. These tools, as well as social media websites, may enable you to communicate your location to family and friends.
- If you have a lost or missing child, you can call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children free of charge at 1-800-843-5678.
- Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to learn about actions you can take to **make yourself and your loved ones more resilient to disasters.**

*"FEMA's mission is to help people before, during, and after disasters."*