



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer

VA Central Office
Washington, DC

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**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER (OCHCO)
BULLETIN**

SUBJECT: FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Financial Assistance

This OCHCO Bulletin serves as a notification of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) COVID-19 funeral financial assistance.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is providing financial assistance for coronavirus (COVID-19) related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020, to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic.

This is not a VA-administered program. A VA Medical Center cannot be an applicant for these funds; it must be an individual as described in FEMA's policy.

Eligibility for COVID-19 funeral assistance:

- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, for a death attributed to COVID-19. If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they must register with FEMA under the same application as the applicant and co-applicant.
- An applicant may apply for the funeral expenses of multiple deceased individuals.
- The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the U.S., including the U.S. territories, or the District of Columbia.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.
- This assistance is limited to a maximum amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application per state, territory, or the District of Columbia.

- Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

How to apply:

To submit an application, call the toll free COVID-19 Funeral Assistance line number 844-684-6333/TTY: 800-462-7585 to speak with a FEMA representative, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time.

Documentation required:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows the death occurred in the U.S. The death certificate must indicate the death “may have been caused by” or “was likely the result of” COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms.
- Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant’s name, the deceased individual’s name, the amount of funeral expenses, and dates the funeral expenses were incurred after January 20, 2020.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

To learn more about FEMA’s funeral financial assistance visit: [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](#).

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