

# Navigating FEMA & Appealing Awards



## SBP's Disaster Assistance Program

### ABOUT

SBP's mission is to shrink the time between disaster and recovery.

SBP's Disaster Assistance Program (DAP) advocates for disaster survivors and provides the resources they need to successfully increase FEMA awards.

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Disaster survivors can apply for Individual Assistance (IA) funding from FEMA within two months of the date of the disaster declaration. The maximum home repair award available for disasters that occur between October 2023 and September 2024 is \$42,500, yet this amount is rarely given after the first attempt. **Less than 5% of FEMA awards are appealed.**

Survivors may also qualify for a one-time critical needs payment (\$700) that can be used for emergency needs by applying to FEMA, ideally within 15 days of the disaster, and identifying within the application that there are immediate needs.

### THE BIG PICTURE:

The more funding granted by FEMA after disaster, the more long-term federal assistance the community will receive to support rebuilding of homes, infrastructure, etc.

### LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

- [FEMAhelp@sbpusa.org](mailto:FEMAhelp@sbpusa.org)
- [SBPUSA.org/start-here](https://SBPUSA.org/start-here)



### TRAINING OFFERINGS

#### FEMA 101 - For Survivors

The FEMA 101 training equips survivors with a baseline understanding of the FEMA application and appeals process and gives tips on how to self-advocate.

#### Train the Trainer

The FEMA Assistance training provides in-depth FEMA application and appeals knowledge-- new FEMA changes, how to file successful appeals, and types of documents needed - for advocates to assist survivors in the application and appeals process.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

SBP's Disaster Assistance Program has helped over **900 households in eleven disaster-impacted communities** since 2020:

- \$4.2M in collective appeal awards
- \$6,283 average award increase
- 107.7% average increase from initial award