



# 2023 Interim Final Rule

## Disaster Relief Eligible Uses

January 2024



# EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

- Recipients may use SLFRF funds to **provide emergency relief from natural disasters or the negative economic effects of natural disasters.**
- To use SLFRF funds for this new use category, recipients should undertake the following **two-step process**:
  - 1) Identify a natural disaster that has occurred or is expected to occur imminently, or a natural disaster that is threatened to occur in the future; and
  - 2) Identify emergency relief that responds to the physical or negative economic impacts, or potential physical or negative economic impacts, of the natural disaster. Emergency relief must be ***related & reasonably proportional to the impact identified.***



# EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

## Eligibility Criteria

Emergency relief defined as “assistance that is needed to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe.”

### Eligibility framework for responding to a disaster that has occurred or is expected to occur imminently:

- 1) Meet the definition of *emergency relief* (above)
- 2) Have an emergency declaration or designation for the recipient’s geography and jurisdiction in the form of:
  - Declaration pursuant to the Robert T Stafford Disaster relief and Emergency Assistance Act;
  - Declaration by the Governor of a state pursuant to state law;
  - Declaration by a Tribal government; or
  - Designation by the chief executive of a recipient government with documentation that the event satisfies the definition of natural disaster

### Eligibility framework for providing assistance to lessen or avert the threat of a future natural disaster:

- 1) Document evidence of historical patterns or predictions of natural disasters that would reasonably demonstrate the likelihood of future occurrence of a natural disaster in its community; and
- 2) Use this information to demonstrate mitigation measures would be reasonable and proportional to the threat of a natural disaster.

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## Non-Exhaustive Eligible Uses

### Temporary Housing

- **Rental assistance**, reimbursement for hotel costs
- **Temporary housing units** when individuals are facing challenges finding permanent housing due to shortages caused by a natural disaster
- **Temporary emergency housing** including congregate and non-congregate shelter
- **Shelter** following an evacuation

### Food Assistance

- **Financial assistance for lost wages:** Supplemental benefits for individuals participating in state unemployment insurance programs or the Department of Labor's DUA program at the time of the disaster or following the disaster. *(Supplemental benefit may not exceed \$400 a week for duration of the need for emergency relief).*

### Emergency Protective Measures

- Transportation & pre-positioning equipment
- Supplies and commodities
- Flood fighting & firefighting
- Medical care and equipment
- Childcare
- Demolition of structures

Full list on p. 5 of  
the Overview  
document

### Other Immediate Needs

- Debris removal
- Public infrastructure repair
- Increased operational costs
- Cash assistance for uninsured or underinsured disaster caused expenses
- Cash assistance for low-income households
- Home repairs for primary residences not covered by insurance that have become uninhabitable

### Mitigation Activities

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## Other Key Info

- For mitigation activities with **total expected capital expenditures \$1M or greater**, recipients must complete and meet requirements of a Written Justification which must include:
  - Description of emergency relief to be provided and potential impact to be addressed
    - Must include: documented evidence of historical pattern or predictions of natural disasters
  - Explanation of why a capital expenditure is appropriate
    - Must include: explanation of why existing facilities/equipment and/or policy changes would be inadequate
  - Comparison of the proposed capital expenditure against alternative capital expenditures
    - Must include: comparison to two alternative types or sizes of capital expenditures that are potentially effective and reasonably feasible; use quantitative data where possible
- If recipient uses SLFRF funds to cover disaster losses, the **Stafford Act's prohibition on duplication of benefits applies.**
  - Recipients should consult page 7 of the Overview document and pages 23-26 of IFR for more details.
- Treasury encourages recipients to **adhere to strong labor standards.**

More structured & prescriptive than 2022 FR written justifications