

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES:

FEMA ASSISTANCE FOR HCV PARTICIPANTS AND LANDLORDS

In the event of a wildfire, participants of Section 8 rental assistance programs may be temporarily displaced. FEMA may provide assistance to voucher holders until permanent housing is established. If a unit becomes inhabitable due to wildfire damage, voucher participants should first notify the PHA to suspend or cancel HAP payments to the landlord. Voucher holders will then become eligible for FEMA's Individual Assistance program to address the immediate need for housing and costs associated with displacement. Voucher holders may use these resources until their original unit is habitable again, or until they find a new unit. Landlords are also eligible for FEMA assistance if they too are displaced or need financial assistance to complete repairs.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program is available to both HCV participants and landlords within Presidentially Disaster Declared areas. Participating in federal rental subsidy programs from HUD does not prohibit participants from seeking FEMA assistance during the aftermath of natural disasters as the program is available to all impacted individuals. Landlords may seek assistance to repair units and voucher holders may be eligible to receive assistance for short-term lodging and costs associated with displacement.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO VOUCHER HOLDERS

Voucher participants displaced by wildfires may be eligible for the following types of assistance:

- 1) Temporary shelter at FEMA-sponsored hotel
- 2) Temporary Rental Assistance for short-term rentals
- 3) Costs incurred as a result of displacement for items such as: Childcare expenses, medical and dental expenses, funeral and burial expenses, damages to essential household items, fuel for primary heating source, cleaning items, damages to essential vehicle, moving and storage expense, and other necessary expenses as determined by FEMA.

HOW TO APPLY

Both landlords seeking assistance for repairs and displaced vouchers holders should call the following number to begin the application process:

1-800-621-3362 / 1-800-462-7585 (For Hearing Impaired)

After registration, callers will be provided guidance on the application process.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program is administered by the State of California's Office of Emergency Services.

HOW PHAS CAN SUPPORT VOUCHER HOLDERS SEEKING FEMA ASSISTANCE

- For voucher holders to be eligible to receive FEMA short-term rental assistance, landlords cannot receive HAP at the same time. PHAs can provide a letter to voucher holders to accompany the FEMA application confirming that HAP payments have ceased until the unit is habitable again or when new housing is found.
- FEMA applications will require proof of address. PHAs can help provide copies of documentation a voucher holder may need but may be unable to access as a result of displacement.
- Report displacement to the local authorities which helps FEMA estimate resource allocation.

For more information on FEMA's Individual Assistance Program, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual>