

PEOPLE FIRST FUND FOR HURRICANE HELENE AND MILTON APPLICATION FAQs



RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

Our Resource Documents webpage houses a variety of guides and other materials that may be helpful throughout the grant application process. Visit the webpage at this link: eafrelief.org/appresourcedocs.

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Charitable Class: The People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton Charitable Class is the group of individuals who are eligible to apply for a grant, per the Fund's criteria.

Emergency Assistance Foundation (EAF): Emergency Assistance Foundation administers all People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton activities, including accepting donations, objectively reviewing grant applications, and awarding and distributing grants. EAF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, public, non-profit organization.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton?

The People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton was created to help families, individuals and service providers impacted by Hurricane Helene in September 2024 (Charitable Class members). The Fund relies on support from donations made by you and the general public. Every donation makes a difference, no matter the amount, and combined with the donations of others, helps to provide grants directly to those in need.

Are grants from the Fund taxable?

Grants from the Fund are considered tax-free for grant recipients who are subject to United States IRS tax regulations. For recipients outside the United States, the tax treatment of your grant will differ based on local policies/laws. For questions related to the tax treatment of grants received, please contact a local tax professional.

Who can apply for a grant from the Fund?

The Fund's Charitable Class (those eligible to apply for a grant) includes:

- Individuals with primary residence in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee or Virginia at the time of Hurricane Helene in September 2024 ("Event"); or
- Individuals with primary residence in Florida at the time of Hurricane Milton in October 2024 ("Event"); or
- Individuals who have been displaced as a result of the Events; or
- Individuals who are housing impacted individuals who have been displaced as a result of the Events

How large of a grant can I apply for?

The People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton grant maximum is US \$1,000 and the minimum amount that can be requested is US \$500. Actual grant award amounts are based on individual financial need as demonstrated through required documentation in the grant application.

What are the criteria to qualify for a grant from the Fund?

The People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton was designed to provide direct financial assistance to as many eligible applicants as possible in accordance with the Fund's criteria and United States IRS regulations. Emergency Assistance Foundation (EAF), the Fund's administrator, strives to award grants whenever possible, but there are many factors that determine whether a grant can be awarded. The most basic criteria include the following:

PEOPLE FIRST FUND FOR HURRICANE HELENE AND MILTON

APPLICATION FAQs



1. You or your eligible dependent (including your spouse/domestic partner) were impacted by one of the qualified Events included in the chart below.
2. Due to the impact of the qualified Event, you or your eligible dependent (including your spouse/domestic partner) incurred one or more of the qualified Expenses included in the chart below.
3. Your application would meet the following conditions:
 - a. You are applying within 90 days after the Event.
 - b. Standard grant awards are limited to 1 every 12 months.
 - c. If your previous application was not awarded, you must wait 30 days before reapplying.
4. IRS regulations require us to ask for proof of the Event that has impacted you or your eligible dependent (including your spouse/domestic partner), as well as proof of the resulting Expense(s) for which you are seeking assistance. You must be able to provide the required supporting documentation, which should be dated within 60 days of the application date. Please review our Supporting Documentation Guide at eafrelief.org/approurcedocs for detailed information.

This chart shows all of the Fund's qualified Events and Expenses. Qualified Expenses are dependent upon the qualified Event. A checkmark indicates which Events and associated Expenses are qualified. Grants are not available for Events and Expenses that are not marked in the chart below.

		QUALIFIED EXPENSES THAT ARE COVERED BY GRANTS														
		IMMEDIATE NEEDS				MEDICAL		HOUSING *				TRANSPORTATION		MISC.		
People First Fund for Hurricane Helene Natural disaster such as flood, wildfire, tornado, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, blizzard, drought, cyclone, hurricane, typhoon or severe storms.	Food – immediate needs only (usually applicable up to 2-4 weeks after the Event)	✓														
	Clothing – immediate needs only (usually applicable up to 2-4 weeks after the Event)	✓														
	Reasonable evacuation expenses resulting from an Event	✓														
	Reasonable funeral, travel and burial expenses.	✓														
	Significant medical expenses	✓														
	Prescription medications															
	Travel expenses related to the medical care															
	Rent: temporary housing up to 30 days	✓														
	Reasonable repairs to damaged property	✓														
	Essential appliances and furnishings	✓														
	Essential utilities (gas, water and electricity)	✓														
	Security deposits (for new housing if unable to inhabit existing home)	✓														
	Mortgage or rent assistance for primary residence	✓														
	Adaptive improvements and solutions related to the Event	✓														
Repairs other than routine maintenance, or repairs that could not have been avoided	✓															
Cost of public or commercial transportation																
Cost of car rental up to 30 days	✓															
Psychological counseling deemed by a physician to be necessary following an Event																
Expenses resulting from flight from domestic violence such as temporary																
Unable to work due to the event																
Unexpected child care up to 60 days																

* Primary residence only

Who does the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton include as eligible dependents?

The People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton considers the applicant's spouse/domestic partner, minor children, and others for whom the applicant is financially responsible as eligible dependents. The applicant's parents, grandparents, or other relatives are not considered eligible dependents, unless the applicant claims them as a dependent when filing taxes and can provide supporting documentation as proof. A domestic partner is defined as "an ongoing and committed spouse-like relationship between adults."

Who does the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton consider an immediate family member?

An applicant may be eligible to receive a grant if they are financially responsible for funeral, burial, and/or travel expenses due to the death of an immediate family member. The People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton defines an eligible immediate family member as any of the following:

- Spouse or partner in a civil union or domestic partnership*
- Parent/parent-in-law/step-parent

PEOPLE FIRST FUND FOR HURRICANE HELENE AND MILTON APPLICATION FAQs



- Child/child-in-law/step-child
- Sibling/sibling-in-law/step-sibling
- Grandparent/grandparent-in-law/step-grandparent
- Grandchild/grandchild-in-law/step-grandchild

*A domestic partnership is defined as “an on-going and committed spouse-like relationship between adults.”

I borrowed money from my family and/or friends due to the disaster. Will the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton reimburse me so that I can pay them back?

No. Grants from the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton are only available for those in need of immediate financial assistance who do not have any other financial resources available to them.

How do I apply for a grant from the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton?

To apply for a grant, click [here](#). The first time you access the online grant application platform, you must register by entering your first name, last name, and email address. After submitting the registration form, you will receive a link to the application via email. You can use this link to return to your application at any time. Be sure to look for emails in any filtered inboxes and spam or junk folders. After completing your application, including providing all required supporting documentation, submit the application for review.

Please review our Grant Application Guide at eafrelief.org/appresourcedocs for step-by-step grant application instructions.

How does the grant review, award, and payment process work?

INITIAL REVIEW: Once your application is submitted and received by Emergency Assistance Foundation (EAF), one of our objective Reviewers will be assigned to review your application. If any additional information or supporting documentation is needed, they will let you know. Your application will remain in Initial Review until all supporting documentation is received and the application is complete. This stage normally takes 7-10 business days but, depending on the applicant's response time and the information/documentation, timing can vary.

QUALITY CHECK: After the initial review process is complete, your application will enter the final stage of review, in which a second Reviewer completes a final quality check. This stage normally takes 2-3 business days unless there is a need for additional clarification.

AWARD NOTIFICATION: You will be notified by email if your grant is awarded or not awarded. If you are awarded a grant, the email you receive will include all of the important details related to the grant amount and payment information/instructions.

PAYMENT PROCESS: If you are located in the United States, any amount being paid to you will be sent via email from app@echecks.com. The email will provide several digital payment options. Be sure to look for emails in any filtered inboxes and spam or junk folders.

The processing of grant payments normally takes two weeks or less. Please note that this time estimate assumes there is sufficient money in the Fund to make the grant payment. In addition, banking systems vary by country and certain banking regulations may cause delays that are beyond EAF's control.

Please review our Grant Payment Guides at eafrelief.org/appresourcedocs for additional detail.

Can I apply for a grant on behalf of someone else?

No. If you think an eligible Charitable Class member would benefit from a grant, please share information about the People First Fund for Hurricane Helene and Milton with them. In the case of a Charitable Class member who is incapacitated, a family member or manager can apply on their behalf.

PEOPLE FIRST FUND FOR HURRICANE HELENE AND MILTON APPLICATION FAQs



Do I have to repay the grant?

No. Grants from the Fund are not loans and do not have to be repaid.

When I apply for a grant, will my personal information remain confidential?

Yes. Your personal information is only used to determine your grant eligibility and the grant amount. Grant applications will be treated confidentially. However, non-identifying aggregated statistical information will be reported on a periodic basis in an effort to improve the Fund.

How do I contact Applicant Support?

The Applicant Support team at Emergency Assistance Foundation (EAF) can be reached via email at PFF_HH@emergencyassistancefdn.org or by phone at (855) 785-2337. Please visit www.peoplefirstfund.com for additional contact options.

Where can I find additional resources?

Visit eafrelief.org/appresourcedocs for helpful grant application resources and documents.