

Cook County Recovery: Key Topic

FEMA Considerations for Basement Damage

- If you had flood or storm damage in your basement, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance.
- The goal of FEMA housing assistance is to ensure the residence is safe, secure and habitable.
 - If the disaster damaged critical appliances or structural components in your basement, such as the furnace, water heater or your home's foundation, those items may be eligible under FEMA's programs.
 - Households with damage in essential living spaces of a basement—such as garden apartments—may also be eligible for FEMA assistance.
 - FEMA considers the kitchen, bathrooms and occupied bedrooms as essential living spaces of a home.
- **You must first register with FEMA.** After registering, a FEMA inspector will need to assess your home's damage. FEMA inspectors are strictly focused on disaster-caused losses and expenses. They do not enforce local building codes or document building code violations. FEMA inspectors are trained to recognize damage caused by a disaster, but they do not decide if you will receive assistance.
- FEMA specialists review each applicant's situation on an individual basis and are trained to determine all damage and losses that may be eligible for assistance.
- If you have questions about FEMA assistance or need help registering, visit one of the open Disaster Recovery Centers in Cook County or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Reasonable accommodations, including translation and American Sign Language interpreters via Video Relay Service will be available to ensure effective communication with applicants with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and access and functional needs. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 (including 711 or Video Relay). If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY, call 800-462-7585.



FEMA