



**TO: DDD PROVIDER NETWORK**  
**FROM: Division of Developmental Disabilities**  
**RE: Response to COVID-19 (rel29)**  
**DATE: 05/18/2021**

**COVID-19 Guidance for Alabama HCBS Waiver Service Providers**  
**Division of Developmental Disabilities Services**

**COVID-19 Funeral Assistance**

FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination held a call for Disability Stakeholders on the Funeral Assistance Program which is covered under the:

- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, and
- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
  - Under these Acts individuals may apply for financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

To be eligible for funeral assistance, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

To apply contact the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line at:

844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Or visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). FEMA representatives will assist the applicant in completing the application process.

Types of documentation include:

- **An official death certificate** that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
  - The death certificate must indicate that the death was caused by, may have been caused by, or was likely the result of COVID-19 or COVID-19 related symptoms.

- If the death certificate does not indicate the death was caused by COVID-19, the individual would need to contact the person who certified the death. They may be able to change or amend it.

Other documents include:

- **Funeral expenses documents** (such as receipts, funeral home contract)
- **Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. FEMA may reimburse up to \$9,000 per decedent; \$35,900 per state per applicant. FEMA will not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

Fraud Schemes to be wary of:

- Groups offering assistance to complete the application process for a fee. While this is not illegal, individuals may contact FEMA to complete an application by calling 844-684-6333 or visit the website [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). They have representatives who will assist with the process.
- Unsolicited phone calls pretending to be FEMA.
- Requests for pre-paid debit cards.

For more information visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

[\(1081\) #FEMA: Providing Financial Assistance for COVID-19-Related Funeral Expenses - YouTube](#)

Please send any questions you may have relating to COVID-19, services, etc., to:

[ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:ADMH-DDD.Questions@mh.alabama.gov)