



Group Flood Insurance Policy

As part of the effort to reduce future expenses from floods, FEMA directly purchases Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP) certificates on behalf of applicants who are required to buy and maintain flood insurance but who may not otherwise be able to purchase a policy. The GFIP is a policy that is established for each disaster declaration that results from flooding and authorizes the provision of Individual Assistance (IA). The National Flood Insurance Reform Act (NFIRA) and FEMA regulations require applicants who receive federal financial assistance to buy and maintain flood insurance as a condition to receive assistance for future flood damage to any insurable property for acquisition or construction purposes. For purposes of the Individuals and Household Program financial assistance for acquisition or construction means assistance to buy, receive, build, repair or improve insurable portions of a home and/or buy or repair insurable contents for the home. The requirement to buy and maintain flood insurance only to real and personal property that is, or will be, in a designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and can be insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The GFIP refers to a flood insurance policy established under the NFIP regulations. FEMA may pay \$600 under Other Needs Assistance (ONA) for three years of flood insurance for eligible ONA recipients of assistance for flood-damaged property (personal and real) located in an SFHA on which FEMA places a first-time flood insurance requirement. The \$600 GFIP premium is counted toward the applicant's financial ONA maximum, which is an annually adjusted amount based on the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index. The coverage amount of the GFIP policy is equal to the combined amount for the Housing Assistance and ONA financial maximum awards for the declared disaster.

GFIP Policy Terms

The 36-month GFIP policy term begins 60 days after the date of the Presidential disaster declaration. However, individual coverage becomes effective 30 days following NFIP's receipt of the applicant's name and premium payment from either the local, state, territorial, tribal government or FEMA.

- **Homeowners:** Flood insurance coverage must be maintained for the address of the flood-damaged property. The flood insurance requirement is transferred to any new owner of the address and continues for as long as the address exists.
- **Renters:** Flood insurance coverage must be maintained on the contents of the rental property for as long as the renter remains at the flood-damaged address. If the recipient moves from the damaged rental property, the flood insurance requirement is not transferred to the next renter.

Conditions of Eligibility:

1. The applicant must be in compliance with Individuals and Households Program (IHP) general eligibility conditions:
 - The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.
 - FEMA must be able to verify the applicant's identity.
 - The applicant's insurance, or other forms of disaster assistance received, cannot meet their disaster-caused needs.
 - The applicant's necessary expenses and serious needs are directly caused by a declared disaster.
2. FEMA verifies that damage to the applicant's property is caused by flooding and the damaged items are insurable under the NFIP.
3. The applicant's damaged residence is located in a SFHA.
4. The applicant's residence is not located in a sanctioned community, Coastal Barrier Resources System (CRBS) area, or Other Protected Area (OPA). An eligible applicant whose pre-disaster primary residence is located within an OPA and an SFHA may only be considered for a GFIP certificate if they also meet the following conditions:
 - A legally valid building permit for the construction of the applicant's pre-disaster primary residence was issued prior to November 16, 1991;
 - The applicant's pre-disaster primary residence was built (walled and roofed) no later than November 16, 1991; and
 - The applicant's pre-disaster primary residence was not substantially improved or 5102 substantially damaged on or after November 16, 1991.
5. The applicant does not have a previous requirement to maintain flood insurance as a condition of receiving IHP assistance.
6. The applicant is eligible for Home Repair, Replacement, or Personal Property Assistance, prompting the requirement to maintain flood insurance on the damaged residence and initiating the GFIP.
7. The applicant is referred to ONA.

Eligibility Notification

Pre-disaster owners included in the GFIP receive notification from FEMA stating they have been included in the policy as well as a "Certificate of Flood Insurance"; applicants do not receive a copy of the actual policy. Applicants do not have the ability to decline the GFIP.

Pre-disaster renters will only receive a GFIP certificate if they notify FEMA within six months of receiving a GFIP notification letter that they have moved back or intend to move back to their pre-disaster residence.

Expiration Notification

FEMA gives applicants a 60-day notice of policy expiration and a final notice of termination of coverage. When the GFIP expires, the applicant is responsible for purchasing and maintaining flood insurance on their own. Failure to maintain flood insurance will affect applicant eligibility for future disaster assistance.

Limitations and Exclusions

- If the cost of a GFIP policy exceeds the remaining amount of financial ONA assistance available to an applicant, then FEMA will not purchase a policy. The applicant will still be responsible for obtaining a policy on their own.
- Applicants who own or rent travel trailers on non-permanent foundations are not eligible for GFIP.
- Applicants who accept a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan during the disaster in which a flood insurance requirement is established, will not be considered for a FEMA-purchased GFIP certificate.

FEMA's Mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

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