



County of Monterey

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Phase 2 of the Pajaro Disaster Assistance Underway; First Distributions for Repairs, Property Losses Received

County of Monterey continues to support Pajaro community recovery.

Phase 2 of the Pajaro Disaster Assistance Program, a program specifically created to support Pajaro residents impacted by the 2023 flooding and funded by state monies, is underway and the first distribution of aid related to flood repairs and personal property losses has been received by applicants. While each award is based on individual household loss and may vary widely, these first distributions were on average approximately \$6,500 per household.

The Pajaro Disaster Assistance Program is comprised of two phases: Phase 1: Evacuation Food Spoilage; and Phase 2: Unmet Needs for Flood Recovery.

More than 300 households are eligible for Phase 2 of the disaster program which is only for residents who suffered physical flood losses. These residents are being assisted by caseworkers with Catholic Charities and Community Bridges.

“Phase 2 requires active engagement with Caseworkers and providing supporting documentation beyond proof of residency in Pajaro,” explains Kelsey Scanlon, Director of the County of Monterey Emergency Management Department. “Since these monies will reimburse residents for losses, some amount of documentation on losses, monies received from insurance, and benefits from other government relief programs is necessary. Caseworkers are working closely with residents every step of the way to maximize the assistance the program can provide. A case ranking system has been developed to prioritize those most vulnerable. We want to ensure that appropriate amounts of money are getting into the hands of Pajaro flood survivors as effectively and efficiently as possible.”

The Disaster Assistance Program was launched on March 26, 2024, for a 35-day application period.

Phase 1: Evacuation Food Spoilage (Complete) focused on reimbursing impacted residents for food loss. The County received 757 applications, of which 688 applications were eligible for Phase 1 assistance. All those who qualified for this benefit have received grocery gift cards. That phase is complete and successfully distributed \$450,000+ in financial assistance. Of the 69 ineligible households, 13 were linked to duplicate cases, 38 were not able to provide proof of residency, and 18 were not Pajaro residents.

Of the 757 of households who applied for Phase 1, 341 were eligible to move on to Phase 2.

Phase 2: Unmet Needs for Flood Recovery provides recovery for expenses and losses such as home repair, vehicle replacement, housing assistance and personal property damages. Two loss



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categories, Housing Assistance and Personal Property, have a maximum award of \$15,000; Two loss categories, Vehicle Repair/Replacement and Home Repair Assistance, do not have a maximum award. Full information about the program is available at <https://www.readymontereycounty.org/recover/pajaro-recovery>

Residents who have begun the Phase 2 process are encouraged to continue to work with and connect with their assigned caseworker. The Disaster Assistance phone line remains available for residents who have questions about the process: 831-755-3400.

The Pajaro Disaster Assistance Program also includes a component for businesses, both home -based and store fronts. The Small Business Assistance Program is focused on helping these businesses continue their recovery from flooding and prevent permanent closures due to the disaster. The program offers reimbursements for loss of inventory, equipment and sales, plus a beautification program.

This program received 89 applications. At this time, 36 applications are in final review for funding and approximately 40 are nearing completion.

County of Monterey Workforce Development staff continue to work with applicants to help these business owners compile all required documentation for reimbursement.

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