

# DISASTER ASSISTANCE AS A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

## FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Federally recognized tribal governments have unique rights in disaster declarations. These tribes are granted a government-to-government relationship between themselves and the United States, which allows them to request and receive certain federal benefits and services.

## WHO CAN REQUEST DISASTER ASSISTANCE?

Federally recognized tribal governments may request disaster assistance directly from the President, or they may apply through the state. Additionally, they are not required to submit a request if the government of the state in which the tribe is located has already requested such assistance.

## IF THE TRIBE REQUESTS DISASTER ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT:

If a federally recognized tribal government requests disaster assistance directly from the President, that tribe will be considered the “recipient.” This means that the disaster assistance will be awarded directly to the tribal government, which will be responsible for the disaster assistance funds and uses.

To request disaster assistance directly, the tribe’s Chief Executive must submit FEMA Form 010-0-13, along with all necessary documentation, to the President through the appropriate Regional Administrator within 60 days of the incident.

## IF THE TRIBE REQUESTS DISASTER ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE STATE:

Federally recognized tribal governments may also request disaster assistance through their state or State Governor. However, when disaster assistance has been granted to a state, that state is generally declared the “recipient,” or the entity that will be awarded and responsible for the use of the funds granted. This means that the tribal government would be considered a “subrecipient” of the funds.

Once aid becomes available, the state, as the recipient, may distribute the funds to any local, tribal, and territorial governments that are considered subrecipients. When these funds are distributed to a tribe by the state, rather than directly from the federal government, the funds are likely subject to the state’s allocations, meaning the state may decide the amount of funding the tribal government may be granted.



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