

AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees - We are AASBCR®

Blue Bulletin

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COVID-19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic brought overwhelming grief and unexpected expenses to many families. In 2021, the Federal government passed legislation aimed at helping to ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus. In accordance with the provisions of this legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

The information on the next page is taken directly from a FEMA document. You can also find extensive information about COVID-19 Funeral Assistance including detailed information regarding eligibility and requirements online at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Call this dedicated toll-free number to get a COVID-19 Funeral Assistance application completed with help from FEMA’s representatives.

What information do I need to provide when I apply?

You will need to provide the following information when you call the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline to ask for assistance:

- **Social security number for the applicant and the deceased individual**
- **Date of birth for the applicant and the deceased individual**
- Current mailing address for the applicant
- Current telephone number for the applicant
- Location or address where the individual died
- Information about burial or funeral insurance policies **Must say NONE**
- Information about other funeral assistance received such as donations, CARES Act grants, and assistance from voluntary organizations. **NO TRUSTS**
- **Routing and account number of the applicant’s checking or savings account (for direct deposit if requested)**

What happens after I apply?

- After you apply for COVID-19 Funeral Assistance by calling the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline, the FEMA representative will provide a FEMA application number. **You will need to include your FEMA application number on any documentation you submit to FEMA, or if you call the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline to ask questions about your application. Within 3 to 5 business days after you apply, FEMA will send you a letter with information about COVID-19 Funeral Assistance and a list of documents you must submit.**

PO Box 110355 Cleveland OH 44111-0355 Phone/FAX (312) 962-2770 <http://aasbcr.org/>

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What happens after I apply? (continued)

- You must also provide FEMA with proof of funds received from other sources specifically designated for funeral costs. COVID-19 Funeral Assistance may not duplicate burial or funeral insurance proceeds, pre-planned or pre-paid funeral contracts, pre-paid trust for funeral expenses, irrevocable trust for Medicaid, financial assistance from voluntary organizations, government programs or agencies, or any other source specifically designated for funeral expenses. Any eligible COVID-19 Funeral Assistance will be reduced by the amount of other assistance you received for the same expenses. NOTE: Life Insurance funds are not considered a duplication of COVID-19 Funeral Assistance benefits.
- FEMA eligibility determinations are generally made in fewer than 30 days from the time all required documentation is received and verified. Once an eligibility determination is made, applicants who request direct deposit may receive the funds in a matter of days. It may take longer if the applicant has chosen to receive COVID-19 Funeral Assistance by check which is sent by mail.

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