



## **FEMA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AFFECTED BY OREGON WILDFIRES**

*I've heard that if I was affected by the wildfires, I can get money from FEMA. If I am an immigrant, do I qualify for this type of help?*

If you live in Jackson County, you qualify for individual financial help from FEMA. FEMA can help with money to pay for substitute housing, to replace property that was lost or destroyed in the fire, or for medical expenses. FEMA may also be able to provide temporary housing in some areas. To get money from FEMA, you will need to be able to show that someone in your household is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR or green card, or other legal status, including asylee, refugee, trafficking victim, and certain immigrants subjected to battery or extreme cruelty).

*What if I am undocumented and do not qualify for FEMA help?*

If you are undocumented and do not qualify for FEMA individual assistance, you may be eligible under many different programs run by voluntary agencies for various types of assistance. Among these are: American Red Cross 866-438-4636 (English) 800-257-7575 (Spanish), Catholic Charities 888-744-7900 (English and Spanish) and many locally created funds. For more information and help about applying for FEMA assistance, please stop by Multi Agency Resource Center located inside Medford Central High School in Medford from September 28-October 2 from 8am-8pm.

## **DISASTER RELIEF IS NOT CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC CHARGE ASSESSMENT**

*I've heard that receiving government benefits may prevent me from becoming a permanent resident. Can I still request disaster relief if I've been affected by the recent wildfires?*

Disaster relief funds are exempted from the "public charge" ground of inadmissibility that affects some who are applying for visas or to become permanent residents through a family member or their employment. The acceptance of disaster relief funds will not be counted against you if you are subject to the "public charge" rule. In addition to disaster relief, these following resources are Not detrimental to your status: Emergency medical assistance; National school lunch programs; The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children ; The Children's Health Insurance Program; Subsidies for foster care and adoption; Government-subsidized student and mortgage loans; Energy assistance; Food pantries and homeless shelters; and Head Start. More information can be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/public-charge-fact-sheet>.

## **LOST DOCUMENTATION**

*My Green Card/ Work Authorization/Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship was damaged or destroyed by the wildfires. How can I replace the document?*

First off, it is important to realize that USCIS and ICE have your legal status on file. If you have lawful status in the US you should not worry that you will be deported. Your complete legal name and date of birth should allow USCIS or ICE check your status. Your A (alien) number is of the greatest help if you have a photo or copy of your immigration document. You can also request interim evidence of permanent residence stamp (I-551 stamp) from a USCIS Field Office via the USCIS customer service line 800-375-5283- you will ask for an INFOPASS appointment for an I-551 stamp for proof of status. There is no fee for an I-551 stamp. Secondly, it is important to replace your damaged or destroyed document. You will need to complete the appropriate form (I-90 for permanent resident alien cards; if you are a conditional resident please check with a legal services provider for guidance; I-765 for employment authorization document; N-565 to replace certificates of naturalization or citizenship). These forms can be mailed in or filed online with [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) (cannot file fee-waiver online).

Each form has a fee which will change as of October 2, 2020. If you cannot pay the appropriate fee there are funds available through certain non-profit organizations that will cover the fee. There is also a fee waiver that could be available through USCIS. It is important to note that due to changes in the law, fewer people will be eligible for a fee waiver on October 2, 2020.