



FEMA

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Daily Fact Sheet

16 municipalities approved for IA: **Adjuntas, Cabo Rojo, Corozal, Guánica, Guayanilla, Jayuya, Lajas, Lares, Maricao, Peñuelas, Ponce, San Germán, San Sebastián, Utuado, Villalba and Yauco.**

The municipalities of **Guánica, Guayanilla, Peñuelas, Ponce, San Germán** and **Yauco** are eligible for reimbursement of expenses for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B).

Key Messages

- Individuals who lost their jobs because of the earthquakes in southwest Puerto Rico and live or work in any of the 16 municipalities FEMA approved for assistance may be eligible to receive unemployment funds.
 - To ensure eligibility, visit your local unemployment office or call the Puerto Rico Department of Labor at **787-945-7900**.
 - If you are eligible, you may file a claim for benefits at the Puerto Rico Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Security near your home or at the nearest American Job Center.
- Survivors with earthquake-damaged homes in **Adjuntas, Cabo Rojo, Corozal, Guánica, Guayanilla, Jayuya, Lajas, Lares, Maricao, Peñuelas, Ponce, San Germán, San Sebastián, Utuado, Villalba** and **Yauco** may be eligible for assistance from FEMA, **but they must apply directly to FEMA.**
- After applying for FEMA assistance, survivors may be contacted to schedule an assessment of the damage to their home and essential personal property. FEMA assessors check the home for damage from the earthquake, but they cannot make decisions about building safety.
- For many people in Puerto Rico, the recent series of earthquakes has been surprising and unsettling. But earthquakes are not new to Puerto Rico. Some people may remember the Christmas Eve earthquake in 2010 or the magnitude 6.0 earthquake on Sept. 24, 2019, that was widely felt throughout the island.

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- The U.S. Geological Survey released its [long-term forecast](#) for seismic activity in Puerto Rico. USGS experts estimated that aftershocks from the magnitude 6.4 earthquake on Jan. 7, 2020, will persist for years to come, although with decreasing frequency.

Individual Assistance

Number of Valid Applications	Amount Approved	Number of Assessments
More than 21,000	More than \$8.2 million approved	13,995 completed

- Survivors may apply for assistance online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling **800-621-3362**.
- Operators who speak Spanish are available by pressing 2. People who use **TTY can call 800-462-7585**. Lines are open 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.
- People in municipalities not already approved should contact their local Municipal Emergency Management Office.

Disaster Recovery Centers

- Survivors can visit any Disaster Recovery Center to meet FEMA staff face-to-face and get help applying for assistance.
- The centers are open daily 7a.m. to 7 p.m.

Municipality	Address
<i>Guánica</i>	Coliseo Mariano “Tito” Rodríguez PR-116R Guánica, PR 00653 Lat. 17.9756, Long. -66.9059
<i>Guayanilla</i>	Estadio Municipal Luis A. “Pegui” Mercado Toro (parking lot) PR-2 Guayanilla, PR 00656 Lat. 18.02304, Long. -66.78715
<i>Peñuelas</i>	Centro Comunal Alturas 2 Santo Domingo Peñuelas, PR 00624 Lat. 18.061194, Long. -66.732472
<i>Ponce</i>	Complejo Polideportivo Los Caobos (basketball court) Avenida Los Caobos Ponce PR 00716

	Lat. 17.9984, Long. -66.5888
Utua	Coliseo Municipal Jorge “Peco” González Avenida Rolando Cabañas Utua, PR 00641 Lat. 18.2792, Long. -66.7068
Yauco	Coliseo Raúl “Pipote” Oliveras PR-128 Yauco, PR 00698 Lat. 18.0331, Long. -66.8593

What should survivors do?

- Survivors should take pictures of any damage and begin to clean up. Survivors should immediately file a claim with their insurance company and keep any receipts of expenses related to the earthquakes in a safe place.
- If you haven’t already done so, file a claim with your insurance company. If you have uninsured or underinsured losses, contact FEMA to apply for federal assistance. Keep in mind that FEMA will not provide benefits you receive from insurance and other sources.
- Survivors should check the identification of unknown visitors. FEMA property assessors always carry official FEMA photo identification badges.
- FEMA staff never charge for disaster assistance, inspections, or for helping to fill out applications. FEMA housing inspectors verify damage, they do not make repairs or recommend any contractor.
- If the seismic activity is making you feel anxious or stressed, please call the Primera Ayuda Sicosocial (PAS) at **800-981-0023** and speak to a crisis counselor.

SBA

- There are two U.S. Small Business Administration Business Recovery Centers to help businesses, homeowners and renters apply for disaster loans.
- The centers are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Municipality	Address
Ponce	El Centro de Desarrollo de Pequeñas Empresas y Tecnología (SBTDC) Inter-American University Campus 104 Turpeaux Industrial Park Meredita Ponce, PR 00715
Yauco	Calle Santiago Vivaldi Esquina Betances La Placita, Mercado Abierto Yauco, PR 00698

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- As of Feb. 2, 2020, SBA has approved more than \$330,000 in disaster loans for homeowners.
- Learn more by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955 (800-877-8339** for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- **SBA Disaster Mitigation Loan**
 - Homeowners and business owners can rebuild stronger by increasing their SBA disaster assistance loan up to 20% of the verified physical damage to make mitigation improvements.
 - Generally, borrowers have two years after loan approval to request an increase for higher rebuilding costs, code-required upgrades or [mitigation](#).

Earthquake Safety

- During an earthquake, **Drop, Cover and Hold On**. Minimize your movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place.
- If you are indoors, stay there until the shaking has stopped and you are sure exiting is safe. Cover your head and neck with your arms or a pillow until the shaking stops.
- People with mobility disabilities who cannot drop, should still cover and hold on.
- People who use wheelchairs should lock their wheels and not try to transfer during shaking. At the start of a tremor, **drop, cover** under something sturdy and **hold on**.
- The shaking produced by an earthquake or strong aftershock can cause heavy objects to move or fall, potentially injuring people or pets.
- To avoid injury, move heavy objects to the floor or, if on a shelf, to a lower level. Anchoring heavy furniture and appliances to the wall will prevent them from falling.
- To prevent injuries from flying glass, apply safety film to windows and glass doors.

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