

# How to apply for an NALC disaster relief grant



Assistant to the President for Community Services  
Christina Vela Davidson

**T**he year 2021 has been a nightmare for everyone, but we are strong and surviving. This year, those who live in the western part of the country continue to fight wildfires, while the central region of the country is still cleaning up the destruction caused by a derecho storm. In August, Hurricane Ida hit land in the Gulf Coast, pounded Louisiana and made its way up to the Northeast, where it flooded parts of New Jersey and New York.

Every time I turn on my computer, I see that I have received another grant application from a member; this is so heartbreaking. But I work my hardest every day to make sure that all members in need receive some form of assistance. What the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF) gives is not much, but I pray that it helps the member in need. We can't replace what was lost, but I want you to know that we are always here for our members and their families.

**The foundation has been set up to function in two ways:** by providing hands-on relief and by receiving donations as a means to offer financial grants. With natural disasters increasing in frequency, the DRF is receiving grant applications daily. DRF relief grants can be considered only for property damage sustained to a primary residence, vehicle or personal property from a hurricane, flood, tornado, wildfire, earthquake, severe storm or other natural disaster. Damage declared by the applicant will be verified by the branch president or a designee.

The following are the eligibility criteria that members must understand and follow. To complete your grant file, please see No. 5 below, which lists all items that members must provide to the DRF.

1. Anyone seeking help *must* be an NALC member as defined by the *NALC Constitution*, Article 2, Section 1(a).
2. Members do not have to wait for emergency relief or insurance claims to apply.
3. Those temporarily displaced from their "uninhabitable" primary residence must submit a signed, personal narrative detailing the specific reasons for the anticipated duration of the displacement.
4. Applications for grants from DRF must be received no later than 120 days from the date that the natural disaster occurred, unless applicants can provide sufficient reason(s) why they were unable to complete and submit their application prior to this deadline. Requests for exceptions will be ruled on by the DRF directors on a case-by-case basis.

5. Items needed to have a complete DRF grant application:

- Completed and legible signed grant application
- Proof of primary resident ownership (property taxes/home payment bill/insurance policy)
- Proof of vehicle ownership (title/payment slip)
- Clear photos of the damages to your home, vehicle or personal property
- List of items lost or damaged
- Other documentation (estimates, hotel receipts, etc.)
- Branch president or designee verification of damage

**Other matters that need to be considered:** If members rent, they must provide statements from a landlord establishing property uninhabitability, a copy of their new home application or a copy of the deposit receipt. If the member incurs expenses due to the displacement, he or she should provide hotel receipts or other documents to show these costs.

Members must document with photos the damage sustained by their primary residence, vehicle or personal property. If the member receives estimates or begins to repair their property or vehicle, he or she should provide those receipts.

Finally, the branch president or designee will need to verify the member's address/property; this is a prepared statement documenting the member's damage from the disaster.

Remember, the application for DRF assistance is not an application for Federal Emergency Management Agency aid, or any other federal disaster assistance. Again, please make sure that the grant application and all pictures of the damage are clear, complete and legible. You can find the DRF grant application form at [nalc.org/disaster](http://nalc.org/disaster).

**With so many disasters affecting our members, contributions to the foundation are as important as ever.** Knowing that you contribute to something that directly aids our fellow sisters and brothers in their time of crisis and need is extremely rewarding.

Donations should be sent to: NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your contribution may be tax deductible. It is recommended that you seek further advice from your tax advisor.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at [disasterrelieffoundation@nalc.org](mailto:disasterrelieffoundation@nalc.org). Brothers and sisters, thank you; please stay safe, and God bless each of you and your families.