

PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY: HOUSING

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Has the order of the areas impacted by the Maui wildfires been decided for the cleanup?

The cleanup process includes two phases. Phase 1 is removal of hazardous materials; Phase 2 is removal of other fire-related debris. The County of Maui will oversee priorities during the fire cleanup while working in partnership with state and federal agencies who are here to support the community with this process.

Please visit <https://www.mauirecovers.org/recovery/debrisremoval> for up-to-date information.

2. When will residents be allowed onto their properties?

For planning purposes, the restricted areas in Lahaina have been organized into zones. As areas are opened for access, visitation or re-entry, the County will utilize the zones identified to communicate changes in the status of each zone.

More details may be found on: <https://www.mauirecovers.org/recovery/recovery-phases>

3. What is the timeline for residents to be able to start cleanup, and rebuilding?

There are many steps on the journey to recovery. The fire debris cleanup is a critical part of that journey and involves a phased approach that requires the coordination of local, state and federal partners. [This](#) outlines the steps of those efforts.

4. Who does a company with modular homes available to ship to Maui contact and what land is currently available for homes like these?

All modular homes information can be emailed to fema-dr4724-hi-jhtf@fema.dhs.gov. Potential land availability is being researched by State and County representatives.

5. What are long-term housing solutions for the displaced residents?

The State, Maui County, and FEMA, along with other federal agencies including non-governmental agencies, are working together to determine housing solutions.

6. How will houseless residents displaced and impacted by the disaster be addressed?

The goal is to house all of the Lahaina wildfire survivors, including houseless and undocumented individuals, into some form of accommodation.

7. How can second homeowners best support housing programs and receive rental income to offset their expenses?

Homeowners are directed to fill out the Property Information Form, which also allows them to list their property on the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation's [website](#).

8. Is there a way to release homeowners from their contracts with management companies so that they can open up their homes to displaced residents?

Since the contracts are agreed upon between homeowners and their management company, any amended changes to the contract vary by the terms and conditions of the agreement or cancellation policy.

9. Will the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) fast track the rebuilding of affordable homes on Maui?

As applications are received, they will be evaluated and open for public review.

10. As a homeowner, how do you start renting out your property or your home?

Please fill out the Property Information Form on the HHFDC [website](#). The information you provide will be included in a database of information that displaced families and individuals will be able to view and determine if your arrangement meets their needs.

11. Will you update/remove DBEDT housing options that are already taken?

The list of available units is updated on an ongoing basis by HHFDC.

12. Will the mayor and governor make sure to keep historical Lahaina looking like it once was?

Government officials have emphasized that Lahaina will be built how the community wants it to be built. This message has been also echoed by President Biden, Governor Green and Maui Mayor Bissen.

13. Are there any programs that will commit to support rental assistance for 12-18 months?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Direct Lease Program attempts to expand the housing options available to those who lose their homes in disasters. Through the program, FEMA leases directly from property management companies vacant, ready-to-occupy residential properties at Fair Market Rent (FMR).

14. In what way will you be able to help the disabled senior community?

The Maui County Office on Aging provides services to the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i. They can assist with non-emergency services for seniors 60 years of age and older, persons with disabilities 18 years of age and older, and caregivers. Those affected by the wildfires on Maui can contact their office at 808-270-7774 and/or visit the [website](#).

15. Is there a form for those affected to fill out for eligibility in these housing programs, and if so, how will they apply if technology or transportation is not available to them due to the fires?

The fastest way to apply is through DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply through the FEMA mobile app or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

16. Will there be a certain website to house all FAQs, applications, and opportunities regarding housing to keep things simple and easy for people?

Please visit <https://www.mauinuistrong.info/resource-categories/temporary-housing>

17. Can we qualify for FEMA housing assistance even if we have homeowner's insurance?

You may qualify for FEMA disaster assistance even if you have insurance, however, you will need to file a claim with your insurance provider and submit the insurance settlement or denial letter to FEMA to determine your eligibility for some forms of assistance. To apply for disaster assistance, visit <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>.

18. How does FEMA determine fair market value?

FEMA defines Fair Market Value as "The price that the seller is willing to accept and the buyer is to pay on the open market and in an arm's length transaction."

19. What about those of us with total job loss? How can we pay rent without unemployment?

You can sign up for disaster unemployment assistance with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA.

20. I am a small business owner and my income has stopped since the fire, what help can I get?

You can sign up for disaster unemployment assistance with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA. You can also visit one of the SBA Business Recovery Centers. For a list of locations, visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information.