



# CONGRESSMAN JUAN VARGAS

*Proudly representing the people of California's 51<sup>st</sup> District*

## **HELPING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AFTER A DISASTER**

*A guide to assist you with federal assistance after a disaster*



“Disaster preparedness is essential for ensuring that constituents are ready in case of accidents, natural disasters, and other catastrophic events. My office has put together the following information on federal assistance and resources available. Please be sure to contact my district office with any additional questions.”

*-Congressman Juan Vargas*

**Introduction:** There are a number of programs throughout the federal government designed to help you meet essential needs, as well as assist you and your family in taking the first steps to recovery after a disaster. The information contained in this packet is designed to be a starting point in directing you to the agencies and programs that will best serve your needs. For a more comprehensive review of what is available, please contact the nearest Constituent Services Center located in the 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of California.

**Rep. Juan Vargas Constituent Service Centers:**

Chula Vista Office  
333 F Street, Suite A  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
Phone: (619) 422-5963

Imperial Valley Office  
380 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, #14  
El Centro, CA 92243  
Phone: (760) 312-9900

To begin the process and familiarize yourself with the assistance that the federal government provides, please visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov). This website serves as a one-stop disaster assistance page where you can: obtain information for preparing for a disaster; review all the agencies and disaster programs that they offer; take a pre-screen questionnaire for an accurate list of programs that you may qualify for; apply for federal disaster assistance; and review the status of a submitted application.

**Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA):**

For information on FEMA assistance, please visit their website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or call 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362). FEMA asks that you have the following information ready when you contact them:

- Your Social Security number
- A description of your losses that were caused by the disaster
- Insurance information
- Directions to your damaged property
- A telephone number where you can be reached

Assistance that may be available through FEMA includes:

1) Housing Needs

- Temporary Housing (a place to live for a limited period of time): Money is available to rent a different place to live or a government provided housing unit when rental properties are not available. Search for information about housing rental resources.
- Repair: Money is available to homeowners to repair damage from the disaster to their primary residence that is not covered by insurance. The goal is to make the damaged home safe, sanitary, and functional.
- Replacement: Money is available to homeowners to replace their home destroyed in the disaster that is not covered by insurance. The goal is to help the homeowner with the cost of replacing their destroyed home.
- Permanent Housing Construction: Direct assistance or money for the construction of a home. This type of help occurs only in insular areas or remote locations specified by FEMA, where no other type of housing assistance is possible. This type of assistance is unlikely to be available in the 51<sup>st</sup> District.

- 2) Other than Housing Needs - Money is available for necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster. This includes:
- Disaster-related medical and dental costs
  - Disaster-related funeral and burial cost
  - Clothing household items (room furnishing, appliances), tools (specialized or protective clothing and equipment) required for your job, necessary educational materials (computers, school books, supplies)
  - Fuels for primary heat force (heating oil, gas)
  - Clean-up items (wet/dry vacuum, dehumidifier)
  - Disaster damaged vehicle
  - Moving and storage expenses related to the disaster (moving and storing property to avoid additional disaster damage while disaster-related repairs are being made to the home)
  - Other necessary expenses or serious needs as determined by FEMA
  - Other expenses that are authorized by law
- 3) Additional Services
- Crisis Counseling
  - Disaster Unemployment Assistance
  - Legal Services
  - Special Tax Considerations

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):**

For information on USDA assistance, please visit their website at [www.usda.gov/disaster](http://www.usda.gov/disaster). The USDA provides assistance in a number of different ways through the Farm Service Agency, the Rural Development office, National Resources Conservation Service and the Food and Nutrition Service. Below is a list of local and/or regional offices for the USDA that can assist you with any questions or information.

#### State Office:

California State Farm Service Agency  
430 G St  
Davis, CA 95616-4155  
Phone: (530) 792-5520

#### Regional Service Center Offices:

Riverside County Farm Service Agency  
82-901 Bliss  
Indio, CA 92201-4355  
Phone: (760) 347-3675 Ext. 2  
Fax: (760) 342-5346  
Mailing Address:  
82-901 G St #4161  
Davis, CA 95616-4161

Imperial County Farm Service Agency  
177 N Imperial Ave  
El Centro, CA 92243-2336  
Phone: (760) 352-4418  
Fax: (760) 352-0219  
Mailing Address:  
177 N Imperial Ave  
El Centro, CA 92243-2336

## **U.S. Small Business Administration:**

The Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Disaster Assistance provides low interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, inventory, and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster. For more information about services provided by the SBA visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or call the SBA customer care center at 1-800-659-2955.

Below are several SBA loan programs for which you may qualify:

- **Home and Personal Property Loans-** A homeowner, renter and/or personal property owner in a designated disaster area may qualify for an SBA loan to help recover from a disaster.
- **Business Physical Disaster Loan-** Any business or private, nonprofit organization that is located in a declared disaster area and has incurred damage during the disaster may apply for a loan to help replace damaged property or restore it to the condition it was in before the disaster.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans-** If your small business or private, nonprofit organization has suffered economic injury, regardless of physical damage, and is located in a declared disaster area, you may be eligible for financial assistance.
- **Military Reservists Economic Injury Loans-** The Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (MREIDL) provides funds to help an eligible small business meet ordinary and necessary operating expenses that it could have met, but is unable to meet, because an essential employee was called-up to active duty in their role as a military reservist.

**Conclusion:** The general information in this packet is not a comprehensive list of all disaster assistance programs offered by the federal government. Please contact your most convenient Congressman Vargas Constituent Service Center for more information and for assistance throughout the entire disaster assistance application process. Any of these centers will help you with disaster assistance and will not simply refer you to a federal agency where you may run into the usual red tape and bureaucracy.

For any other information, visit my website at [www.vargas.house.gov](http://www.vargas.house.gov).

**If you need assistance with any federal agencies please fill-out the attached casework and privacy authorization form and to return it to my district office. Thank you.**

Chula Vista Office  
333 F Street, Suite A  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
Phone: (619) 422-5963

Imperial Valley Office  
380 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, #14  
El Centro, CA 92243  
Phone: (760) 312-9900



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Juan Vargas CA-51

CASEWORK AND PRIVACY AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please sign & return this form to one of the following offices:

San Diego County District Office
333 F. Street, Suite A
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Phone: (619) 422-5963 | Fax: (619) 422-7290

Imperial County District Office
380 North 8th Street, Suite 14
El Centro, CA 92243
Phone: (760) 312-9900 | Fax: (760) 312-9664

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552), I hereby authorize Congressman Juan Vargas, or a designated member of his staff, to work on my behalf with any federal agency relevant to the matter described on this form, to receive and review any information contained in my file and, if necessary, to forward any pertinent correspondence sent by me regarding this matter.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to begin processing your case, please answer the questions below and on the page 2.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY IN BLUE OR BLACK INK:

Circle One: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_
First Middle Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Street City State Zip

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive E-mail alerts from Congressman Juan Vargas regarding district events, news, and upcoming legislation? Circle One: Yes No



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JUAN VARGAS  
51<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain the issue you are requesting assistance with. If available, please include copies of any relevant documentation related to your request.

1. What concern(s) are you having with a federal agency?

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2. What specific action(s) are you seeking from our office?

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3. Have you contacted other elected offices on this issue?

Circle One: Yes No

If yes, please list name(s) and date(s) of contact below:

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