



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
150 Mt. Vernon Street, 1st Floor
Dorchester, MA 02125

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MARGRET R. COOKE
Acting Commissioner

Tel: 617-740-2600
www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs

February 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to families, and in many cases, a financial crisis that increases their burden. I am writing to inform you about an important financial benefit from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), that you or your family may be eligible for.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is **providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses**, incurred after January 20, 2020. You are receiving this letter because you are listed as a person who provided information to the State of Massachusetts regarding a COVID-19 related death certificate.

If you paid COVID-19 related funeral expenses, you may be eligible for financial reimbursement from the FEMA Funeral Assistance Program. If you were not the individual that paid for funeral expenses, please pass along this information to those that did.

Over 5,500 Massachusetts families have already taken advantage of this benefit and received up to \$9,000 in funeral costs, by contacting **FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline**. For those families that have not taken advantage of this benefit, we encourage you to call the dedicated toll-free phone number below to get help from FEMA's representatives. **Every application must begin with a call to FEMA's Helpline. There is no online application.** Multilingual services are available.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline

844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Additional information about COVID-19 funeral assistance, including frequently asked questions, is provided in the enclosed flyer, and is available on <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Information about ordering a copy of, or correcting, a death certificate from the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics can be found at www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs or by calling (617) 740-2600.

Sincerely,

Karin A. Barrett
Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics