

# ADA Foundation®

## ADA Foundation Disaster Relief Fund Guidelines

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**Purpose of the ADA Foundation Disaster Relief Fund:** The ADA Foundation (ADAF) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) provides grants to state dental associations and/or their affiliated foundations (grant recipients) to assist dentists in the state impacted by a disaster. Grant amounts awarded to each state will vary based on a variety of factors, such as the severity of the disaster, number of dentists impacted, and available funds, at the sole discretion of the ADAF. States can apply for funding, within 60 days following the declaration of the disaster, and, if approved, once funding is received, will distribute individual grants to eligible dentists consistent with [IRS disaster relief guidelines](#) to help address their most urgent personal needs in the immediate aftermath. States will also be expected to report back to the ADAF on their use of the funds.

**Definition of disaster (as defined by the IRS):** The President of the United States can declare a major disasters for any natural event, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that he/she determines has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond. To be eligible, the disaster must occur within the United States or its territories.

**Grant Parameters:** Disaster Relief grant funds are intended to be awarded to state dental associations and/or their affiliated foundations to support the most urgent **personal** needs of disaster-affected dentists in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, consistent with IRS disaster relief guidelines.

Grant funds may be used for essential, short-term **personal** needs such as:

- Food
- Water
- Clothing
- Blankets
- Medication and medical supplies
- Emergency shelter
- Transportation
- Toiletries

These grants are not designed to cover long-term recovery efforts, such as rebuilding homes or replacing household items, nor can they be used to compensate for lost income.

\*Additionally, grant funds may **not** be used for dental practice-related expenses, including property, supplies, or staff wages.

**Eligibility Requirements:** State dental associations and/or their affiliated foundations may apply for a Disaster Relief grant to support dentists within their state who have been impacted by a disaster.

If awarded a grant, states must adhere to the dissemination guidelines outlined below (and set forth in an agreement between the state and ADAF) and distribute grant funds to dentists in accordance with [IRS disaster relief guidelines](#).

To be eligible for assistance, a **dentist** must currently reside in the United States or its territories, be impacted by the disaster, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Graduated from a pre-doctoral dental program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation; or
- Currently holds or previously held a valid dental license; or
- Are a dentist working in any other dental or public health position within the U.S. and its territories.

*\*The ADA Foundation is a public charity; therefore, membership in the American Dental Association is not required to be eligible for assistance.*

The ADA Foundation would like to emphasize that, due to current funding restrictions, dental students are not eligible for grants at this time. However, the ADAF deeply values the critical role students play in the future of dentistry and is committed to expanding funding opportunities as resources allow.

**Grant Amount and Availability:** A state dental association and/or their affiliated foundation may be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$25,000, depending on the severity of the disaster and available Foundation funds, and other factors in the ADAF's sole discretion. A state dental association and its affiliated foundation are eligible to apply for one grant per disaster. If a single disaster impacts multiple states, each affected state is eligible to apply for a grant. State grant recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement and meet all reporting requirements.

**Disaster Relief Fund Committee Composition:** The DRF Committee, a standing committee of the ADA Foundation, will be composed of the following voting members:

- Two ADAF Board Members, one of which is also an ADA Board of Trustees Member and will serve as Chair of the DRF Committee, and the other which is the Chair of the Charitable Grants Committee
- One external Committee Member (affiliated with the ADA)

The members of the DRF Committee shall be appointed by the ADAF Board Chair with the approval of the ADAF Board of Directors. The Committee shall have fiduciary responsibility over approving Disaster Relief grant awards and shall report regularly to the ADAF Board about its activities.

The following individuals may be invited to attend DRF Committee meetings in a non-voting, advisory/consulting capacity, to provide insight and context as needed:

- ADAF Board Chair
- ADAF Board Vice Chair
- ADA Executive Director
- ADA President
- ADA President-Elect
- ADA Board of Trustees representative from the district of the disaster-affected state or territory

**Grant Fund Disbursement:** Grant funds will be disbursed following the ADAF's approval of the state dental association / state dental foundation application and the execution by both ADAF and the state entity of an award agreement.

