

For Official Release
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Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
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“FEMA Provides Coronavirus (COVID-19) Funeral Assistance.”

*FEMA offers assistance for expenses that were incurred after January 20, 2020.
Death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19.*

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 10:00 am, the Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Governor’s Office and FEMA, will be hosting a virtual town hall meeting at the VA building in Tafuna regarding a FEMA program to assist with funeral costs for deaths directly related to COVID-19. Each eligible applicant may receive up to \$9,000.00 in assistance.

“There are several guidelines that applicants need to make sure they understand, and be in line with before we start processing requests,” states Governor Lemanu. “We do not want to turn away anyone seeking assistance, but we need to know what the requirements are for eligibility. I personally want to thank Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for all his efforts in ensuring American Samoa is included in receiving these benefits during such a challenging time. We also commend Director Samana for taking the lead on this endeavor. I encourage all families who meet the requirements to apply for this assistance.”

According to FEMA, to be eligible, you must meet the following conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the US territories and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a US citizen, non-citizen national, or a qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2021.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a US citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

Expenses that qualify for reimbursement are:

- Transportation for up to two people to identify the deceased individual
- The transfer of remains, a casket or urn
- A burial plot or cremation niche
- A marker or headstone

- Clergy or officiant services
- The arrangement of a funeral ceremony
- The use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Cremation or interment costs
- Costs associated with producing multiple death certificates

The American Samoa Department of Homeland Security point of contact is Laauli Ifopo and for the Office of the Governor it is Mapu Jamais.

The information that you need to provide for FEMA is listed on the website below.

Please contact the local the American Samoa Emergency Operations Center at 699-3800 for further assistance.

Or visit the FEMA directly online: [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq)

FESOASOANI TUPE MO E NA MALILIU I LE KOVITI-19

O le aso Lua, Aperila 20, 2021, o le a faatautaia ai se fonotaga faapitoa i le nofoaga tutotonu mo Alii ma Tamaitai fitafita ua malolo (Veterans Administration Office) i Tafuna. O lenei fonotaga o se faiga pa'aga a le Ofisa o le Kovana Sili ma le Matagaluega o le Puipuiga o le Saogalemu o le Lotoifale (Department of Homeland Security). O le sini autu, o le talanoaina lea o le fesoasoani tupe mai le FEMA, mo aiga na maliliu nisi o tagata o latou aiga mai le faamai o le Koviti-19.

Na saunoa le Afioga i le Kovana Sili, Lemanu P.S Mauga, e iai aiaiga ma taiala taua e ao ona utagia ae le'i amata oga faagasolo le faatinoina o talosaga mo lea fesoasoani tau tupe. " O le naunautaiga o le Malo, ia agavaa uma tagata o le atunuu i lea fesoasoani, ae tatau ona silafia ta'iala mai le FEMA". Kovana Sili, Lemanu P. S. Mauga.

O le faafetai faapitoa a le Alii Kovana Sili i le Failautusi ia Alejandro Mayorkas ona o lana galuega mae'ae'a sa faatinoina ina ia mafai ai ona aofia Amerika Samoa i lenei fesoasoani tupe a le FEMA aemaise lava i lenei taimi o feagai le lalolagi atoa ma le faamai o le Koviti-19.

E momoli foi le faafetai tele i le Faatonu o le Matagaluega o Puipuiga o le Saogalemu ma le Lotoifale (Department of Homeland Security), Samana Ve'ave'a o le sa taulamua i lenei faamoemoe. O le talosaga a le Malo i tagata uma, ia faaoga lenei avanoa taua e talosaga ai mo se fesoasoani tau tupe mo aiga aafia.

O le sui mai le Matagaluega o le Puipuiga o le Saogalemu o le Lotoifale o le susuga ia Laauli Ifopo, ma o le susuga o Mapu Jamias o le sui o le Ofisa Kovana. O laua o le a gafa ma galuega e fesoasoani atu ile mamalu ole Atunuu e manaomia le fesoasoani e auala atu i lenei porokalama.

Mo i latou e fai talosaga, o aiaiga nei e tatau ona utagia:

- O le na maliu na maliu i totonu o Amerika poo se Territori o Amerikai, faapea ma Columbia.
- E tatau ona manino i le pepa maliu, le mafuaga o le maliu ona o le Koviti-19, po'o auga o le Koviti-19.
- O e agavaa e na'o tagata nuu na soifua ma ola i totonu o Amerika (US Citizen), tagata Amerika (Nationals), tagata o isi atunuu ua faatagaina faaetulafono ona nofomau i totonu o Amerika (qualified aliens), ma ua faamaonia sa faaoga a latou tupe i le taimi o le maliu i tua mai o le aso 20 o Ianuari 2021.

- E leai se aiaiga e tatau ona faailoa atu ai o le ua maliu o se tagata nuu na soifua ma fanau i Amerika, (US Citizen) poo se tagata Amerika (Nationals), poo se tagata ua faatagaina faaletulafono ona aumau i Amerika.

Mo tupe na faaalu i se maliu, e tatau ona usutaia ma faamaonia vaega nei:

- Malaga i se taavale o ni tagata se toalua e faamaonia le tagata maliu o le aiga.
- Tupe na fa'aaluina i le feavea'ina o se tino maliu, pusa maliu poo le lefulefu o le ua maliu.
- Tupe na fa'aaluina i le vaega tonu na teu ai le maliu (burial plot) poo tupe na totogi i le vaega na susuina ai le tino maliu.
- Tupe faaaluina i le faatauina o se ma'a o le tuugamau poo se faailoilo o le fanua tanu (marker)
- Tupe sa fa'aaluina i le totogina o se faifeau e faia le sauniga o le maliu, poo se tagata o le malo na fatinoina le sauniga.
- Tupe na fa'aaluina i le tapenaina o le maliu.
- Tupe sa fa'aaluina e totogi ai le falemaliu, po'o le afaigaluega a le falemaliu.
- Tupe sa totogi ai le susuina o le tino maliu, po'o totogi mo feso'otaiga i internet a'o tapena se maliu.
- Tupe faalauina e tapena ai pepa faamaonia ma pepa maliu.

O faamatalaga uma e moomia e faatatau i lenei feasoasoani a le FEMA e maua mai lea i le EOC 699-3800. Pe silasila foi i le FEMA online i le [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq)