
Storm Shelter Assistance

Policy

The Osage Nation Housing Department received \$250,000 in a revolving fund from the Osage Nation Congress (ONCA 22-78) for storm shelter assistance. This Storm Shelter Assistance program is created to ensure the safety and welfare of Osage Nation members during natural disasters. To that end, the Storm Shelter Assistance program will provide available funds necessary to assist with the purchase of all types of shelters. The Storm Shelter Assistance program is available to Osage Nation citizen homeowners regardless of the location of their residence. The Osage Nation Housing Department (“ONHD”) will administer the program.

Guidelines

1. Eligible Osage member applicants may:
 - a. receive assistance up to \$5,000 per adult Osage Nation member homeowner.
 - b. live inside or outside the ONHD service area (the service area is considered the Osage Reservation boundary and is contiguous with present Osage County, Oklahoma).
 - c. be given one award for one physical address unless ownership has changed and the new Osage member homeowner can prove to ONHD that the previous shelter has been removed from the property.
2. Eligible Osage member applicants can use Storm Shelter Assistance program funds to purchase and install any of the following:
 - a. Above-ground shelters;
 - b. Below-ground shelters;
 - c. Shelter or safe room within the garage or interior of the residence;
 - d. Earthquake-proof shelters;
 - e. Tsunami shelters;
 - f. Hurricane shelters; or
 - g. Other shelters as approved by ONHD.

Procedures

To be considered an eligible Osage member for Storm Shelter Assistance, the applicant shall complete and submit to ONHD an application that includes:

1. Certificate of degree of Indian blood (CDIB) for one homeowner;
2. An Osage Nation Membership Card for one homeowner;
3. Photo identification of the applicant;
4. Social security card of the applicant;
5. Proof of home ownership of the Osage Nation member and
6. If the physical address has previously received Storm Shelter Assistance program funds, provide proof that the previous storm shelter or the safe room has been removed.

Waiting Queue

Once ONHD receives their complete application, applicants will be selected for Storm Shelter assistance on a first-come, first-served basis.

Approved Applicants

1. Approved applicants will be notified by the ONHD using the information provided on their application.
2. Once notified of approval, the participant shall remit to ONHD the name of the contractor and sufficient identifiers for ONHD to verify the contractor and remit payment, such as an invoice or signed contract.
3. Storm Shelter Assistance program funds will be remitted by electronic funds transfer directly to the ONHD-approved contractor according to the terms of the purchase or installation agreement provided.

Fraud

If fraud is suspected, the applicants understand that the Osage Nation Housing Department shall investigate whether fraud was committed based on false, incomplete, misleading, or inaccurate information submitted. Any fraud committed using Storm Shelter Assistance funds can result in penalties under applicable federal, state, or Tribal laws. If assistance has been rendered, the applicant(s) must repay the amount.