

## Who Should Get What? (Part 1)

Disasters can cause a lot of damage. Sometimes it requires extra help to rebuild.

**FEMA** stands for **Federal Emergency Management Agency**. FEMA is part of the U.S. government that helps people who have been impacted by natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes.



FEMA provides help. Here are a few examples of how FEMA helps. Rank the three examples from most important to least important.

Financial Assistance	Temporary Housing	Crisis Counseling
FEMA can help people pay for the cost of repairing their homes and businesses, as well as for other expenses such as food and clothing.	FEMA can provide temporary housing to people who have lost their homes in a disaster.	FEMA can provide crisis counseling to people who have been traumatized by a disaster.
Rank:	Rank:	Rank:

Why did you pick that order?

### Who Gets What?

When FEMA arrives to help with a disaster, they have a set amount of money to use. FEMA must decide how to divide the money. Splitting the money evenly between every need is not practical. Some needs are more expensive than others. In this thinkLaw math lab you will consider several real-life disasters and determine how FEMA should divide the money.

### Disaster: Hawaii Wildfires (2023)

#### What happened?

In the summer of 2023, Hawaii had a series of wildfires that burned thousands of acres of land. It took several weeks to put out the fires. Wildfires are a serious problem in Hawaii because the islands are dry and windy. This allows fires to spread quickly.

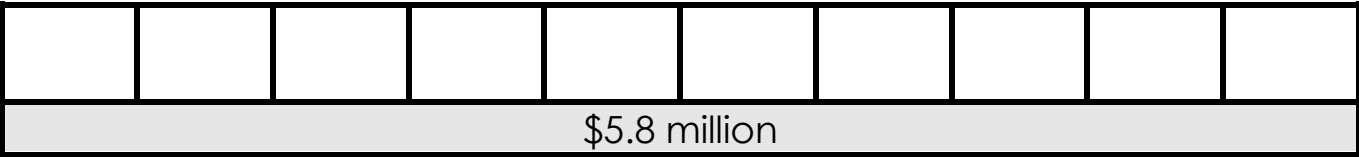


<p><b>What was the impact?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thousands of people were displaced from their homes.</li> <li>At least 30 people suffered serious injuries or burns. Other people have gotten sick from breathing the smoke.</li> <li>Hundreds of businesses were destroyed.</li> <li>There was a lot of environmental damage. The fires burned native forest and grasslands. The fire released pollution into the air and water.</li> </ul>	<p><b>How much money did FEMA have to spend?</b></p> <p><b>\$5.8 million</b></p>
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What resources will the people of Hawaii need? List your top 5 ideas and then rank them by importance. 1 is the most important.

Rank	Need	Fraction

The bar model below represents the total amount of money. How much money would you use on each need? Do not split the money evenly.



Explain your reasoning.

**Discussion Questions**

- Besides immediate help, what other things do you think FEMA should consider when helping people recover from a disaster?
- Is it fair to distribute more money to some needs over others in a disaster situation? Why or why not?
- Can you think of ways that communities can learn from past disasters to be better prepared in the future?
- How is being fair not the same as giving everyone the same amount?