

## 2. Transportation Assistance

FEMA may provide financial assistance under the ONA provision of the IHP to individuals and households with disaster-caused vehicle repair or replacement expenses.<sup>172</sup> Unlike most other forms of IHP assistance, an applicant seeking Transportation Assistance does not need to live in the Presidentially-declared disaster area to be considered for the assistance.



*A car is surrounded by floodwaters.*

The affected STT government uses the ONA Administrative Option Selection Form to establish the maximum amount of Transportation Assistance (i.e., Transportation Repair and Transportation Replacement) that may be awarded. The amount of Transportation Repair and Replacement Assistance awarded is based on the degree of damage and the STT government's repair and replacement maximum.

### Conditions of Eligibility

In addition to meeting general conditions of eligibility (see [Chapter 3, II.](#)), applicants must meet the following conditions in order to receive Transportation Assistance:

- The vehicle sustained disaster-caused damage, and the damage occurred within the Presidentially-declared disaster area.
- The damaged vehicle is an approved vehicle type; eligible vehicles include but may not be limited to vans, trucks, sport utility vehicles, and cars.
  - Other modes of transportation may be added to the ONA Administrative Option Selection Form by the STT government during any non-disaster time period or within three days of a major disaster declaration. This may include boats, motorcycles, golf carts, or other non-standard modes of primary transportation.
- The damaged vehicle is in compliance with its STT government's registration and insurance requirements at the time of the disaster.
- The damaged vehicle is owned or leased (i.e., not a rental vehicle) by the applicant, co-applicant, or household member.



### Vehicle Damage Levels

**Destroyed Vehicle** is a vehicle declared a total loss due to disaster-caused damages (e.g., flood water covered the engine, vehicle was crushed by a fallen tree or was burned).

**Repairable Vehicle** is a vehicle that sustained disaster-caused damage affecting the drivability or safety of the vehicle (e.g., broken windshield, window glass, mirror, or headlight assembly; minor mechanical repairs; medically-required repairs).

**Vehicle with Cosmetic Damage** is a vehicle with disaster-caused damage that does not affect the drivability or safety of the vehicle in any way (e.g., minor dents, scratches, and other similarly low

## Required Documentation

Generally, FEMA will verify vehicle damage during an on-site inspection and record it as repairable or destroyed. If the vehicle is not available at the time of inspection, the vehicle was recorded destroyed by the on-site inspector, or if the applicant does not receive an on-site inspection, the applicant must submit:

- A copy of the vehicle registration valid at the time of the disaster for the damaged vehicle(s);
- A list of all vehicle(s) owned (year, make, and model) and a brief description of damage for each vehicle;
- Proof of insurance policy showing type of coverage or proof the vehicle meets the STT's minimum insurance requirement;
- Insurance settlement, denial, or statement that insurance coverage does not exist;
- **For vehicle repair:** a verifiable bill, receipt, or estimate from a mechanic that:
  - Confirms the damage is disaster-caused;
  - Identifies repair or replacement costs (e.g., parts, service, and labor); and
  - Includes the mechanic's contact information.
- **For vehicle replacement:** documentation from an SLTT government confirming the vehicle was salvaged due to the disaster.
- If the damaged vehicle included medically-required modifications that exceed the Transportation Assistance maximum repair or replacement amount, as applicable, the applicant may request assistance for those modifications under the Medical and Dental Assistance category of ONA (see [Chapter 3, VI.B.2.](#)). Applicants must provide the following documentation related to any medically-required vehicle modifications and the repair or replacement cost of those items, as appropriate, including:
  - A written or signed statement from a medical provider verifying the applicant or household member required the item prior to the disaster; and
  - An itemized bill, receipt, or estimate showing the repair or replacement cost of the component or modified vehicle, as appropriate.



### Vehicle Repair Expenses

Eligible repair expenses based on bills, receipts, and estimates may include but are not limited to:

- Costs for labor
- Service fees (e.g., battery recharge or wheel re-alignment)
- Repair estimates and vehicle towing expenses
- The repair/replacement of vehicle parts when repairs for drivability and safety are required (includes paint and/or body work and carpet)
- Medically-required modifications (e.g., ramp, lift, hand controls)