



FEMA APPLICATION REPORT

STATUS UPDATE ON FEMA APPLICATIONS AS OF AUGUST 4, 2025

Prepared by President's Office, Board of Aldermen

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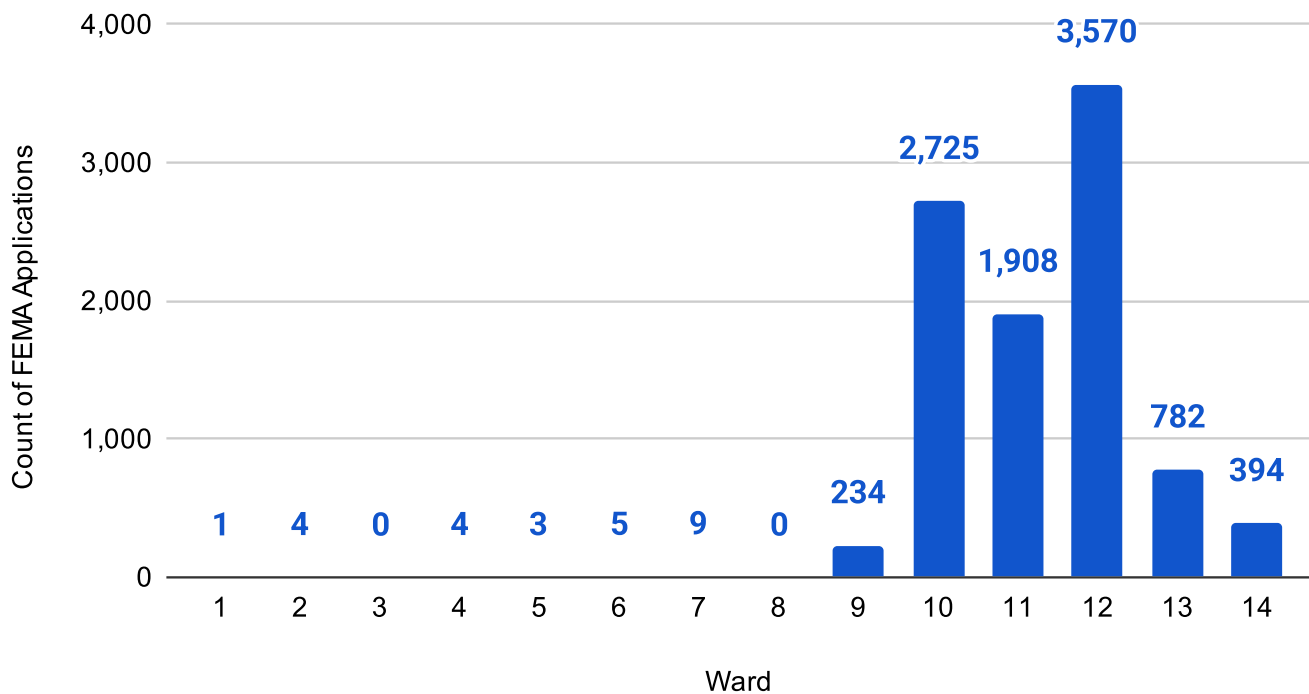
Following President Trump’s approval of a major disaster declaration for the May 16, 2025 tornado, any resident of the City of St. Louis became eligible to submit an individual application for federal disaster aid from FEMA. Financial assistance is available for households with damage to their home, car, and other personal items, as well as other needs such as temporary housing, child care, cleaning supplies, medical care, and transportation.

How many applications have been submitted to FEMA?

As of August 4, 2025, there have been 9,640 applications submitted to FEMA from St. Louis households. Note: Generally, FEMA provides all eligible assistance for a household to a single applicant. This data shows which applications were submitted, but does not represent unique households. In addition, not all applicants may receive federal assistance.

FEMA Applications by Ward as of 8/4/25

Data from FEMA as of 8/4/25



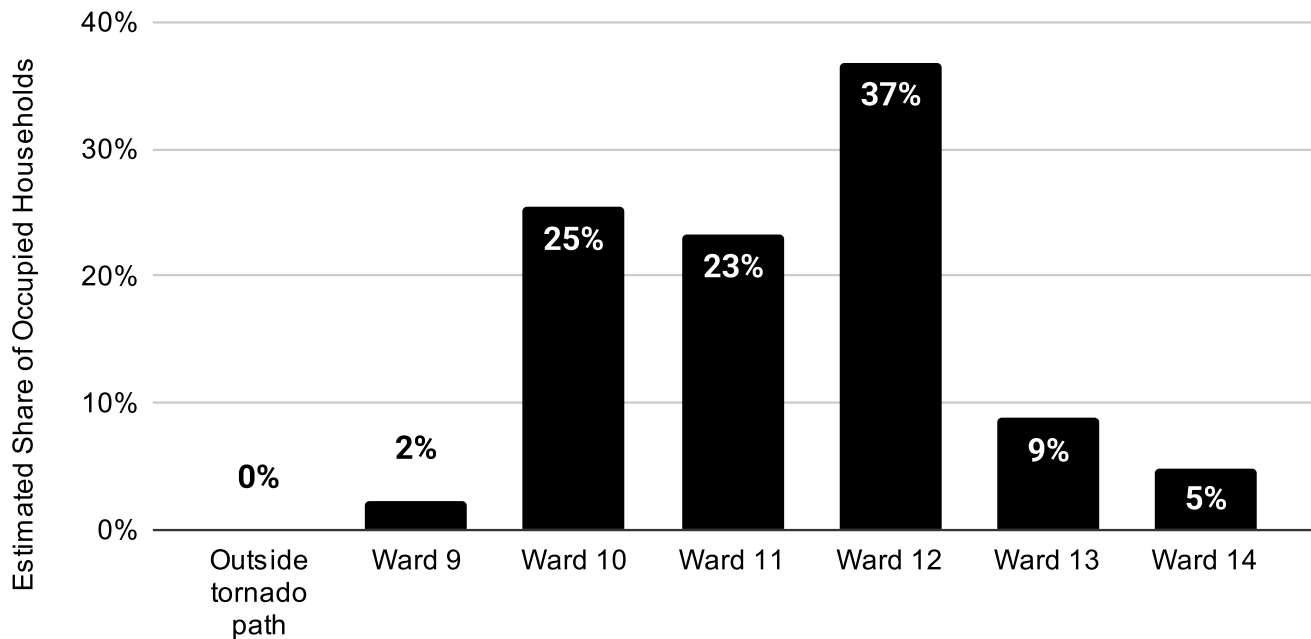
Residents from Ward 12 have submitted the most applications - representing 37% of all applications citywide. There are several wards where no residents requested federal aid, including Ward 3 and Ward 8.

Note: I received a dataset of applications by census tract, not by individual address. Census tracts do not line up perfectly with ward boundaries, so these ward counts are estimates.

While we have estimates of physical damage by Building Division inspectors and Crisis Cleanup Coalition members, we do not know exactly how many households across the City should apply for federal aid.

Share of Occupied Households Applying for FEMA Aid

Data from Census Estimates and FEMA as of 8/4/25



How many applications should there be?

Since there is significant vacancy on the Northside, that means we cannot rely on the number of parcels or buildings to provide a useful measure for how many applications we should expect FEMA to receive. For this reason, I am comparing applications to the number of households or occupied housing units as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau. A housing unit is occupied if a person or group of persons is living in it at the time of the interview or if the occupants are only temporarily absent.

Based on Census estimates of the number of households, I anticipate that **37% of Ward 12 households have submitted a FEMA application**. Low levels of households submitted FEMA applications outside the direct path of the tornado (Wards 1-8), Ward 9, and Ward 14.

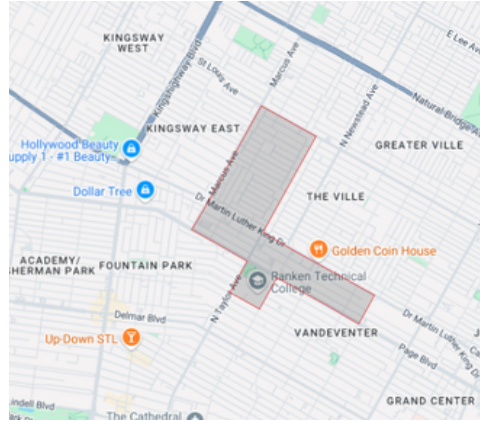
While tornado damage can be sporadic, there are parts of the City where most residents were impacted in some shape or form. There are residents of St. Louis who may not know that they are eligible for federal assistance - such as renters, homeowners with insurance, or households over a certain income. For example, many people do not know that FEMA does not consider income when determining eligibility for housing assistance.

Which places have the highest rates of applying?

There were four census tracts where I estimate more than 70% of households submitted a FEMA application. Those census tracts are located in the Academy, Sherman Park, Fountain Park, Greater Ville, Lewis Place, and Penrose neighborhoods.



Census Tract 1101



Census Tract 1112



Census Tract 1122



Census Tract 1123

Top Performing Census Tracts for FEMA Applications			
Census Tract	FEMA Applications Submitted	Occupied Households (Census)	Neighborhood
Census Tract 1101	957	919	Greater Ville, Penrose
Census Tract 1112	339	369	Greater Ville, Lewis Place
Census Tract 1123	711	784	Fountain Park
Census Tract 1122	441	602	Academy, Sherman Park



Recommendations

I recommend that City leaders aim for much closer to 100% of households to apply in those areas hardest hit by the tornado such as Ward 10 and Ward 12. In addition, attention should be paid to those census tracts where there are lower rates of application than expected based on other measures of need, such as assistance provided by nonprofit partners, debris estimates, and building damage. This data is being used to inform the planned direct outreach efforts by the City which include canvassing, phone banking, and coordination with impacted alders.