

Disaster Relief FAQs

Updated 3.18.19

1. What is the Disaster Relief Fund?

The Fund makes grants to AAO members who reside and/or practice in areas affected by disasters, and who have been affected by such disasters. The Fund may provide disaster grants to either AAO members directly or to organizations that can provide assistance to them.

Specifically, an applicant must meet these requirements:

- a. A disaster must have been declared by the state or federal government.
- b. Unreimbursed property damage to his/her office or equipment as a result of a disaster. (Loss of income does not satisfy this standard.)
- c. Insurance coverage will not cover all the loss.
- d. The application must be signed and sworn to by the applicant.

To request funds, a member must complete this application, which is available on the AAO Website <https://www.aaoinfo.org/disaster-relief-application>

2. Does my membership classification affect my eligibility for funding?

Any AAO member who has been affected by a disaster, regardless of membership classification, is eligible for funding.

3. Who decides if I qualify for funding?

The AAO Board of Trustees administers the fund and approves applications. Grants are awarded at the Board's discretion.

4. What is the limit on the grant amount that I might receive?

Grants for disaster assistance will be awarded only once per practice per disaster, and a grant may be no more than \$5,000 per practice, even if the applicant owns or works at more than one practice location impacted by the disaster or if multiple members or applicants own or work at the same practice impacted by the disaster.

5. Can my AAO dues be waived?

An orthodontist who has suffered significant practice disruption due to a natural disaster, such as flooding, fire or earthquake, is eligible to apply for a 50% or 100% dues waiver. Applications for waivers can be obtained from the Membership Department of the AAO (memberservices@aaortho.org).

6. What if I'm temporarily unable to treat my patients?

A locum tenens orthodontist may be able to temporarily cover your practice. To find one, you can work with a healthcare staffing agency such as [Barton Associates](#) or register for the AAO's Practice Opportunities & Careers service as a "Provider," which will allow you to post an opening for a locum tenens orthodontist and search for candidates in our "Seeker" database. Registering as a provider is free for AAO members and can be completed in just a few minutes by following these steps:

1. Log into the AAO website (www.aaoinfo.org) with your email address and password.
2. Hover over the "Careers" tab and click on "Practice Opportunities & Careers."
3. Scroll to the Provider Features section (in blue) and click "Become a Provider."
4. Complete and submit the user agreement with your electronic signature (e.g., /s/ John Smith).

If you have questions or need instructions for posting an opportunity or searching for candidates, visit our [frequently-asked questions](#) for providers. You may also contact Lauren Carr at lcarr@aaortho.org or 800-424-2841, ext. 587.

7. Is there any other assistance available?

Yes! Upon receipt of a request from an active, associate or affiliate member who has sustained loss due to natural disaster, the AAO will replace patient education or other office materials purchased from the AAO at no cost to the member. The value is not to exceed \$500.00 per member and materials must have been purchased in the last 12 months from the AAO store. Member must provide substantial proof which includes but is not limited to date stamped pictures of damaged items or office.

8. How Can I Help?

There are numerous resources where you can find ways to help natural disaster victims and donate to relief efforts. Here are a few:

Make a donation

Donate to the AAO Disaster Relief Fund

- Contribute online through the AAO store at www.aaoinfo.org
- Contact member services at 800-424-2841
- Mail check payable to AAO Disaster Relief Fund
Attn: Chastity Gaines
401 N. Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63141
*Donations are tax deductible.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-4305408> - This is a direct link to the Smile.Amazon Login screen and the AAO Disaster Relief Fund has already been selected as the charity to receive .5% donation on authorized purchases.

[Salvation Army](#)

[American Red Cross](#)

Volunteer

[American Red Cross](#)

[National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#)