

# Frequently Asked Questions

## I. Kansas Residential Safe Room Program Frequently Asked Questions

### Q1. What is the Safe Room Rebate Program?

A program to provide a rebate for purchase and installation of safe rooms for eligible Kansas homeowners across the State of Kansas.

### Q2. What is a safe room?

For the purposes of this program, the term safe room will include any above or below ground shelter in which the design, construction, and installation comply with the most recent versions of FEMA Publications 320 (Taking Shelter from the Storm), FEMA 361 (Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms), as well as ICC 500 (Standard-for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters).

### Q3. How is the Safe Room Rebate Program funded?

The Kansas Sunflower-safe Residential Safe Room Program is contingent on approval of funds from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program. THE STATE OF KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT must comply with all federal grant regulations for each safe room rebate recipient, to include eligibility of properties, documentation, etc.

### Q4. How will I be notified if I am selected for a rebate?

You will be notified via the email address you provide when you submit your application. Please be sure to use an email address you check regularly.

### Q5. If my application is selected, what will I need to do to receive my rebate?

If you are selected to receive a rebate, you will need to complete the following five steps:

1. Confirm your participation within 30 days of the notice you have been selected to: [Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com](mailto:Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com) ;
2. Receive approval from FEMA/State;
3. Have a safe room installed on your property following the guidelines in the Rules and Regulations;
4. Submit the information required for the spreadsheet of information to the State, which will be sent to FEMA;
5. Submit the required documentation to the State of Kansas Division of Emergency Management by the deadline associated with your grant (see question 7 for more information on what documentation is required).

**Q6. If my application is selected, how long do I have to get my safe room installed?**

Your deadline to install the safe room on your property and submit the required documentation will be associated with your selection period. (See question 7 for more information on what documentation is required). However, please note that you must confirm your participation at [Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com](mailto:Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com) in order to continue with the program.

**Q7. What documentation am I required to submit to receive my rebate?**

You must submit your paid invoice(s) showing the total cost of safe room purchase and installation, a copy of your cleared check, money order or credit card receipt, along with a completed Certificate of Installation to attest that the safe room's design, construction, and installation complies with the most recent versions of FEMA Publications 320 (Taking Shelter from the Storm), FEMA 361 (Design and Construction Criteria for Community Safe rooms), as well as ICC 500 (Standards for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters). The certificate must be signed by the safe room installer and submitted to THE STATE OF KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT by the deadline associated with your selection period. A photo of the NSSA or ATSA seal (which must be visible on the door of the shelter). Photos of the inside and outside of your installed safe room and the front of your house must be submitted. A copy of your Operation and Maintenance Plan. Latitude/Longitude coordinates. Certification of providing the safety kit and location of the safe room to public safety officials. A signed voluntary statement.

**Q8. How long will it take to receive my check after I install my safe room and provide required documentation and how will it be sent to me?**

THE STATE OF KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT will review your submitted documentation. We may contact you if additional information is needed. Once your documents are deemed complete, you will be emailed a final form to sign, which will ask for information including the address where you would like your check mailed. This process may take up to eight weeks.

**Q9. My application was selected for a rebate, but I have moved recently. Can I install a safe room at an address that is different from the address listed on my application?**

Not at this time. However, if you update the address at [Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com](mailto:Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com), you may be eligible for future safe room rebate opportunities.

**Q10. If I am selected, am I required to install a safe room?**

No. Once you are notified that you have been selected, you will have 30 days to confirm your participation. You may choose not to participate at this time but still be eligible for future selection. However, if you confirm that you will participate in the program and do not install safe room on your property and submit required documentation to THE STATE

OF KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT by the deadline, you will NOT be eligible for future safe room rebate opportunities.

**Q11. Does registering on this website mean that I will receive a rebate?**

Registering ensures you will be considered for the program but does not guarantee that you will receive a rebate.

**Q12. How will you select who receives rebates?**

The Safe Room Rebate Program will use a random selection process so that everyone who registers will have an equal chance to be selected.

**Q13. What is the maximum rebate amount that I could receive?**

A maximum rebate of \$3,500 is available per home, not to exceed 75 percent of the actual cost of the safe room.

**Q14. What types of shelters are eligible for the rebate?**

Any type of safe room is eligible for the rebate as long as it meets or exceeds the specifications set forth in the most recent versions of FEMA Publications 320 (Taking Shelter from the Storm), FEMA 361 (Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms), as well as ICC 500 (Standards for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters) and is procured through a NSSA or ATSA member. In addition, many local building codes require a permit and inspection by local building inspectors. Retrofitting an existing storm shelter to meet FEMA specifications does not qualify, however. Only new safe rooms are eligible.

**Q15. What types of homes are eligible for safe rooms?**

The safe room must be installed by individual homeowners in primary residences and must be installed on property owned by the applicant. The program is limited to single-family homes.

**Q16. If I have already installed my safe room or am having it installed now, am I eligible for this rebate?**

No. Previously installed safe rooms are not eligible.

**Q17. I live in a mobile home. Am I eligible for this rebate?**

Perhaps. Mobile home residents must own both the mobile home itself and the land it is located on to be eligible for the rebate.

**Q18. I live in a rented house, but I want to build a safe room. Can I get this rebate?**

No. Only single-family residential homeowners are eligible to receive the rebate for their primary residence.

**Q19. Is an apartment complex, duplex or other multi-family residence eligible for this rebate?**

No. For the purpose of this initiative, apartment complexes, duplexes or other multi-family residences are considered businesses. This safe room rebate program is for individual homeowners, not businesses.

**Q20. I own two or more homes. Can I register for a safe room rebate for each home I own?**

No. You are only eligible for a rebate for your primary residence.

**Q21. I would like to install a community or neighborhood safe room. Am I eligible for this rebate?**

No. The rebate is for individual homeowners only.

**Q22. Can multiple people in my household register for a rebate?**

No. Only one person may register per physical home address.

**Q23. Can I mail or fax in a registration form instead of emailing it?**

Yes.

Fax: 785-646-2001

Mail: KDEM/Mitigation/Sunflower Safe Room Project

2800 SW Topeka Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66611

**Q24. Can I change my address or other information on my application after I register?**

Yes. Via email at: [Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com](mailto:Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com)

**Q25. My home was destroyed by a recent tornado, am I eligible for this rebate?**

Yes, if your new home will be within the State of Kansas and you have not already installed a safe room at the new residence.

**Q26. My home was destroyed by a recent tornado and I am rebuilding my home out of state. Am I eligible for this rebate?**

No. The safe room must be built in Kansas.

**Q27. I have an old shelter that is in disrepair. Can I get a rebate to fix it?**

No. However, you may be eligible for a new safe room.

**Q28. Where should I install a safe room?**

You can install a safe room in a new or existing home, either in an interior room on the first floor, underground on the first floor or as a detached above-ground or underground safe room and within 150 feet of the home. Wherever you install it, the safe room should be readily accessible to all occupants.

**Q29. What is the cost of a safe room?**

Safe room construction costs vary depending on several factors including size and type of safe room. Construction industry experts estimate the cost to range from \$2,500 to \$8,000 or more.

**Q30. If I am selected, can I receive my rebate before my safe room is installed so that I can pay my contractor?**

No. The rebate is only available as a partial reimbursement after construction is completed and you have submitted the required documentation, including proof of payment showing total balance has been paid in full.

**Q31. Am I eligible for a rebate if my home is in a floodplain and I have flood insurance?**

Perhaps. You would not be eligible for a below ground safe room, but you may be eligible for an above ground safe room. However, other agencies will have to approve your specific situation. You may be required to provide more information as needed and if selected you will have to work with THE STATE OF KANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT on a one-on-one basis before the safe room is installed.

**Q32. I live in a historic property or in a historic district. Am I eligible for this rebate?**

Perhaps. However, other agencies will have to approve your specific situation. You may be required to provide more information as needed and will not be able to install the safe room until additional paperwork is submitted for review.

**Q33. If my city or county is also offering a safe room rebate program, can I participate in both?**

Yes. This program will not affect city or county residential safe room rebate programs. If a program is being offered in your city or county, you may register for that rebate program also, as that will give you an additional opportunity to receive a rebate.

**Q34. If I am eligible to receive the rebate, will I have to claim it as income on my taxes?**

No. The safe room rebate is exempt from tax liability as a federally funded assistance program.

**Q35. If I build a safe room, can I claim any tax exemptions?**

Currently Kansas does not have legislation for tax exemptions on a residential safe room.

**Q36. Am I eligible for any kind of State or Federal tax incentive if I build or install a safe room?**

No. There are no State or Federal tax incentives associated with this safe room rebate program at this time.

Website: <https://kansastag.gov/KDEM.asp?PageID=4651>

Email: [Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com](mailto:Sunflowersafe.kdem@gmail.com)

Fax: 785-646-2001

Mail: KDEM/Mitigation/Sunflower Safe Program

2800 SW Topeka Blvd.

Topeka, KS 66611

**Q37. If I am selected, can I build my own Saferoom?**

No, you may not build or install the Safe room yourself. All eligible Safe rooms must go through NSSA (National Storm Shelter Association) or the ATSA (American Tornado Shelter Association).

**Q38. Does my jurisdiction have to have adopted the Regional Mitigation Plan?**

Yes. In order to be eligible your jurisdictions must adopt the appropriate Regional Mitigation Plan. If you are unsure contact your city officials or county emergency manager.