



**FEMA**

# Community E-News Update

## FEDERAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE:

To date, federal disaster assistance to New Jersey residents has exceeded \$152 million, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). That includes more than \$114 million in Individuals and Households Program grants for temporary housing and repairs and \$8.7 million in Other Needs Assistance. "We're getting aid out there as quickly as possible to everyone who is eligible for it," said William L. Vogel, federal coordinating officer for FEMA.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE:

There are three ways to register - go to [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov) or call FEMA toll-free, 800-621-3362 (FEMA). Those with access or functional needs and who use a TTY may call 800-462-7585 or use 711 or Video Relay Service to call 800-621-3362. Telephone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET; multilingual operators are available. The last day to register is October 31, 2011.

## ASSISTANCE FOR AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES CAN INCLUDE AS REQUIRED:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for two months for homeowners and renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on a review of individual applicant requirements.
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional.
- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs.
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$2 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)
- Loans up to \$2 million for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$2 million. (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)
- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. (Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.)



*Debris removal operations in Lawrenceville, on September 9, 2011.*

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## HELP FOR IRENE RECOVERY COMES FROM LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL SOURCES

Individuals and families recovering from Hurricane Irene have access to a number of local, state, and federal resources that can help them get back on their feet. "Disasters begin and end locally," said William L. Vogel, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) top official in New Jersey. "It's important to remember we're only part of the team."

FEMA coordinates the federal resources that became available soon after Irene hit. A presidential disaster declaration helps survivors and their communities get started on the road to recovery. Grants are provided to eligible applicants to cover basic needs; communities are reimbursed -- at a minimum of 75 percent -- for eligible projects that repair or replace disaster-damaged infrastructure.

"In addition to FEMA, there are state and local resources here before, during and after disaster strikes," said Lt. Paul Miller, state coordinating officer with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.

New Jersey's 211 service is for residents who need help and volunteers who want to donate their time. In addition to NJ 211, recovery experts offer this list of possible resources for residents affected by Hurricane Irene and the associated flooding during the Aug. 27 -- Sept. 5, 2011 incident.

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### CLEAN-UP AND DEBRIS CONCERNS:

- **Simple guidelines for debris removal:** [www.fema.gov/photodata/low/51711.jpg](http://www.fema.gov/photodata/low/51711.jpg).
- **Clean-up tips:** Clean-up tips can be found at [www.nj211.org/hurricane2.cfm](http://www.nj211.org/hurricane2.cfm).
- **Mold:** Mold in a damaged home can create serious health problems [www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=58123](http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=58123).

**World Cares Center** is acting as the liaison between NJ 211 and groups that have volunteered to provide free flood cleanup services. Call 2-1-1.

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### SHELTER/HOUSING NEEDS:

Learn about housing options on NJ 211 housing-related web pages. [www.nj211.org/housing.cfm](http://www.nj211.org/housing.cfm).

Other shelter Options: [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/foodstamps/cwa](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/foodstamps/cwa).

You can also find assistance by calling NJ 211 for the homeless, homeless veterans and pet friendly motels.

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### SOCIAL SERVICES:

- **NJ HELPS:** For complete information on all state social services and online applications [www.njhelps.org](http://www.njhelps.org).
  - **Disaster Mental Health:** NJMentalHealthCares Disaster Helpline (866) 202-4357 (HELP). A TTY line is available at (877) 294-4356. Translation services are available as well. [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/disaster#4](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/disaster#4).
  - **Social Services for the Homeless** hotline (by county) [www.nj211.org/images/Hurricane/CountyHomelessHotlines.pdf](http://www.nj211.org/images/Hurricane/CountyHomelessHotlines.pdf).
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### BUSINESS:

- **U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance:** [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).
  - **Hurricane Irene Business Recovery Assistance:** A special business recovery assistance service can be found at [www.nj.gov/njbusiness/](http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/).
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### HIRING LICENSED HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS:

- Visit <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.org/brief/improve.pdf> to receive tips from the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs.

- Search by name for licensed contractors and for other licensed professionals [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/list1.htm](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/list1.htm).
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#### OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

- **Agricultural Needs:** Care/Temporary Sheltering of Farm Animals: [www.nj.gov/—agriculture/news/hottopics/approved/topics110827.html](http://www.nj.gov/—agriculture/news/hottopics/approved/topics110827.html)
- **Document Replacement:** Information for replacing important documents is available from the New Jersey Bureau of Vital Statistics, (609) 292-4087 or visit [www.state.nj.us/health/vital/](http://www.state.nj.us/health/vital/)
- **Legal Services:** [www.lsnj.org](http://www.lsnj.org) or call (888) LSNJ-LAW (888-576-5529)
- **Fraud Reporting:** To report suspected fraud (800) 323-8603
- **Disaster-Related Scams:** NJ Division of Consumer Affairs: [www.njconsumeraffairs.com/disaster/floodtipsflyer\\_1.pdf](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.com/disaster/floodtipsflyer_1.pdf)
- **Verifying the credibility of Charitable Organization:** [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp/charities.htm](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp/charities.htm) or call (973) 504-6215
- **Disaster IRS Tax Relief:** Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or see your tax person
- **Temporary Suspension of Federal Student Loan Payments:** Contact the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman at (877) 557-2575 or (202) 377-3800 for assistance [www.asa.org/repay/options/disaster/default.spx](http://www.asa.org/repay/options/disaster/default.spx)
- **Volunteer Your Services:** Agencies looking for volunteers may register their needs and volunteers willing to assist in relief efforts may search for opportunities at [www.VolunteerNewJersey.org](http://www.VolunteerNewJersey.org)

Database maintained by the Association of New Jersey Volunteer Centers and the Governor's Office of Volunteerism: (609) 633-9629 or (609) 775-5236.

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