



FEMA-4283-DR-FL Advisory

December 20, 2016

Matthew Recovery

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to support the State of Florida through the Florida Division of Emergency Management, in support of disaster survivor recovery from Hurricane Matthew. The following information provides an overview of current activities in support of state, local and federal recovery efforts.

Key Messages:

- Now that the registration period for DR-4283 Hurricane Matthew has ended, survivors are reminded that FEMA and SBA are still available to answer questions and provide assistance to applicants with unmet needs or needs not met by insurance settlements.
- NFIP policy holders affected by Hurricane Matthew are reminded by the State and FEMA to submit a Proof of Loss *within 120 days of their flood loss*.

Assistance to Survivors

Registration—Stay in Touch

- Disaster assistance applicants with questions regarding their application status, or unmet needs are encouraged to stay in touch with FEMA the following ways:
 - Online at DisasterAssistance.gov
 - On the [FEMA Mobile App](#)
 - Calling **800-621-3362 (621-FEMA)** between **7 a.m.** and **11 p.m.**, seven days a week until further notice. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service/VRS may also call **800-621-3362**. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and a TTY may call **800-462-7585**. Multilingual operators are available (press **2** for Spanish).

Determination Letters

- If you receive a letter from FEMA, please read it carefully and respond if necessary. Sometimes FEMA just needs extra documents to process the application.

- You may appeal any determination provided by FEMA in writing regarding Individual Assistance. Call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362** or (TTY) **800-462-7585** for any questions on the appeal review process and to review your file. Multilingual operators are available.

Assistance as of COB Dec. 19, 2016

- **Registrations:**
 - **42,065** individuals and families have registered
- **Grants:**
 - Total dollars approved: more than **\$17.9 million**
 - Housing Assistance: more than **\$15.2 million**
 - Other Needs Assistance: nearly **\$2.7 million**
- **Inspections:**
 - **22,085** inspections completed (**99** percent)
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan activity:**
 - Dollars approved: more than **\$57.7 million**
- **Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams (DSA) as of COB Dec. 18, 2016**
 - DSA teams transitioned to limited presence in affected communities.
 - **34,216** total homes visited
 - **1,428** survivor registrations completed

Hazard Mitigation

- **Combined Activity for Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew as of COB Dec. 18, 2016:**
 - The cumulative interview total is **5,726**.
 - A total of **782** Substantial Damage Assessments were completed.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

- A flood insurance policy through the NFIP is the best protection against flood-related loss. Check with your local community to see if they participate in the NFIP.
- Survivors who accept disaster assistance from FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) **may be required to purchase flood insurance.**
 - For more information on flood insurance or the National Flood Insurance Program, visit floodsmart.gov or call **888-379-9531**.
 - Property owners who already have flood insurance are encouraged to check and update their policies yearly.
- Homeowners and renters who have an **NFIP** policy and suffered damages or losses from Hurricane Matthew are reminded that the date to submit a Proof of Loss was extended from **60** to **120 days from the date of their flood loss**.
- As of **COB on Dec. 15, 2016**, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has received **5,261** claims and approved more than **\$80 million** for Hurricane Matthew. More than **\$21.1 million** has been disbursed in advanced payments.

Public Assistance

- The State of Florida and FEMA have conducted **19 applicant briefings**.

- A total of **277 eligible Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs)** have been received as of **Dec. 19, 2016**.
- **97 kick-off meetings** have been completed as of **Dec. 19, 2016**.
- Debris removal is the responsibility of the individual property owners.
 - Check with your local government for information on curbside pickup and disposal.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

- Second to insurance, SBA low-interest disaster loans are the primary source of federal assistance to rebuild disaster-damaged private property. SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private nonprofit organizations.
- Although the application period for SBA disaster loans ended **Dec. 16, 2016**, applicants are reminded that SBA is still available to answer questions and assist with pending applications the following ways:
 - Via phone at **800-659-2955**
 - By email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
 - Online at sba.gov/disaster

Tax Relief

- Storm survivors in designated counties have until **March 15, 2017**, to file certain individual and business tax returns and make certain tax payments with the Internal Revenue Service. This includes an additional filing extension for those with valid extensions that ran out at midnight **Oct. 17, 2016**.

Declaration Timeline

- **Oct. 6, 2016** – Pres. Obama issued an emergency declaration for **28** counties in Florida in anticipation of Hurricane Matthew’s impact, authorizing FEMA to provide direct support to the State in its efforts to prepare for and respond to the incident. This assistance was for the counties of **Baker, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, and Volusia**.
- **Oct. 8, 2016** – The president issued a **Major Disaster declaration** for Florida which covers Public Assistance (Categories A and B) in eight counties: **Brevard, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Nassau, St. Johns, St. Lucie and Volusia**.
- **Oct. 17, 2016** – Major Disaster declaration amended to include **Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns** and **Volusia** counties for Individual Assistance.
- **Oct. 19, 2016** – Major Disaster declaration amended to include **Brevard** and **Indian River** counties for Individual Assistance and **Putnam County** for Public Assistance (Categories A-B).
- **Oct. 24, 2016** – Major Disaster declaration amended to include **Duval County** for Individual Assistance, **Indian River, Putnam, St. Johns, Volusia** and **Nassau** counties for Public Assistance (Categories C-G), and **Clay** and **Martin** counties for Public Assistance (Categories A-G).

- **Oct. 25, 2016** – Major Disaster declaration amended to include **Nassau** and **Seminole** counties for Individual Assistance, **Brevard, Duval, Flagler** and **St. Lucie** counties for Public Assistance (Categories C-G), and **Palm Beach County** for Public Assistance (Categories A-G).
- **Oct. 27, 2016** – Major Disaster declaration amended to include **Bradford, Lake** and **Seminole** counties for Public Assistance (Categories A-G).
- **Nov. 4, 2016** – Major Disaster declaration amended to include **Broward, Orange** and **Osceola** counties for Public Assistance (Categories A-G).

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[Download the FEMA App](#) to locate and get directions to open shelters across the state, and receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.