

Joint Information Center Joint Field Office Somerset, NJ



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News Release

NEARLY \$5 MILLION APPROVED FOR NEW JERSEY FLOOD SURVIVORS

SOMERSET, NJ –In just two weeks since 12 New Jersey counties were made eligible for federal disaster assistance, nearly **\$5 million** has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Businesses Administration (SBA) to assist in the recovery efforts.

As of April 15, 4,942 flood survivors had registered for assistance. Funds awarded to date total \$4,977,148 which includes:

- **\$4,624,655** in Housing Assistance to cover temporary housing, home repairs or replacement
- **\$352,492** in Other Needs Assistance (ONA) to cover essential personal property losses, subsistence items, medical, transportation or serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance

"We are pleased to be able to help residents so soon in this recovery," said Federal Coordinating Officer, William L.Vogel. "There is still more to be done, and we encourage residents to take the first step by registering with FEMA."

To register for assistance, residents should call FEMA's toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY/TDD 1-800-462-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired (for relay service, call 711 or 1-800-852-7897) between 7 a.m. and 1 a.m., seven days a week. Multi-lingual operators are available to answer calls during this time. Residents may also register online anytime at <u>www.disasterassistance.gov</u>.

"Do it now. Get into the FEMA system," said State Coordinating Officer Lt. Bill McDonnell. "We urge affected residents to go online or make that call, to make that first step towards recovery."

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Twelve Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are now open in the affected counties of Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union. Applicants can get the location of the DRC nearest to their home or business when they register for assistance.

Daily hours at each DRC are 10 am- 6 pm Monday through Saturday. The DRCs are closed on Sundays.

Disaster registrants from any declared county may visit any of the DRC locations for assistance.

Receive up to the minute New Jersey disaster recovery information by following us on Twitter at <u>www.twitter.com/femaregion2</u>.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and 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.