

Quick Reference Guide to Hurricane Recovery

GENERAL

State/Federal Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are readily accessible facilities in each county that provide information and referral services to individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Irene. Residents can speak face-to-face with disaster specialists from State, Federal and community-based organizations about assistance opportunities and any benefits for which they may be eligible. Check your county website or call 211 from any phone to locate a DRC near you.

- **NJ211.org** (www.nj211.org) is an informational hotline that can be dialed from any phone and available online, searchable social service directory with 'chat' function. **THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE [NJ 2-1-1 HURRICANE RELIEF AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE GUIDE](#).** Find information there about county and municipal resources, FEMA declaration and how to apply, clean-up precautions, how-to instructions and more.
- **DISASTER ASSISTANCE/FEMA** (www.disasterassistance.gov) Following approval by the federal government of New Jersey's request for disaster assistance, direct federal disaster relief is now available to New Jerseyans in all 21 counties who have been impacted by Hurricane Irene. New Jersey residents and small businesses in all counties are now eligible to apply for different types of federal assistance, including temporary housing, repair, replacement or other needs such as Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Small Business Administration disaster loans. **Survivors of Hurricane Irene in every New Jersey county who suffered damage should apply for disaster assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency – even if they have insurance or aren't sure they are eligible.**

FOOD ASSISTANCE

- **DISASTER SNAP (DSNAP)** for residents who are not currently SNAP recipients and who have hurricane-related expenses beyond the loss of food due to power outages may apply for benefits at their county welfare agency or alternate sites, as designated by their county.
- **NJ SNAP** (www.njfoodstamps.com) gives eligibility requirements and provides an application for food assistance, which is available to low-income households including families, couples without children, individuals, seniors, disabled persons, legal immigrant and victims of family violence. When you apply online, you also can choose to apply for welfare and/or Medicaid health insurance programs at the same time.
- **End Hunger NJ.org** (www.endhungernj.org) helping individuals and families locate food assistance at food pantries and/or soup kitchens. The site also provides nutritional advice and information about food safety.



HEALTH

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has opened a Call Center to provide callers with public health information related to Hurricane Irene and subsequent flooding. Health experts will offer guidance on the prevention and treatment of mold growth in flooded homes and businesses, drinking water and food safety after power outages and other health protection information. To reach health experts in the Call Center, the toll free number is: 1-866-234-0964. Hours of operation are: 8 AM- 8 PM Monday – Friday.

HOUSING

- **The NJ Housing Resource Center** (www.njhousing.gov) is an online tool for listing affordable housing, helping people with disabilities find housing and finding housing information.
- **The Homelessness Prevention Program** provides short term assistance to applicants meeting the program's eligibility guidelines. For renters facing eviction, go to www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/hpp.html. For homeowners facing foreclosure, go to www.nj.gov/foreclosuremediation/index.html or call 1-888-989-5277.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

- **Disaster Mental Health Helpline** at 877-294-HELP (4357) provides trained clinically supervised telephone specialists who are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to educate, assist, interview and/or refer individuals experiencing post-disaster emotions. Calls are free and information shared is confidential.
- Disaster Recovery Crisis Counselors are available upon county request to areas impacted by Hurricane Irene.