

# HUD Center for FAITH-BASED & Neighborhood Partnerships



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## November 13, 2012 • Disaster Relief Update

### 1. FOOD AND SHELTER

**Salvation Army:** Call center is open 24 hours/7 days a week - **1-800-725-2769**

Call the 800 number to find the closest Salvation Army shelter.

**American Red Cross:** Shelter assistance from your local Chapter can be found by calling **1-800-733-2767, press 1.**

### 2. HOUSING AND HOME REPAIRS

**Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)** has been approved in New York and New Jersey for eligible disaster survivors who have a continuing need for shelter because they are unable to return to their homes for an extended period of time. This initiative is intended to provide short-term lodging for eligible disaster survivors whose communities are either uninhabitable or inaccessible due to disaster-related damages. This program allows eligible survivors to stay in participating hotels or motels until more suitable housing accommodations are available. Please note: to be eligible for TSA, you must first register with FEMA. For more information, disaster survivors should call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Those who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.

**FEMA Housing Portal** consolidates rental resources identified and provided by federal agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Veterans Administration (VA), private organizations, and the public, to help individuals and families find available rental units in their area. FEMA recommends to those who use this portal, that they contact the number on the listing prior to traveling to the location of the property to make sure the property is still available. This site is updated regularly, and we encourage those who use the portal to check back often for the most current information. For general questions about FEMA Housing Resources contact FEMA at 1-800-621-3362.

**NYC Restoration Centers:** NYC Restore helps New Yorkers in the areas most affected by Hurricane Sandy get access to important information and services to help them recover. The Centers provide the following types of assistance: NYC Rapid Repairs, Food and Nutrition Assistance, Temporary Housing Information, Health and Medical Benefits, Business Restoration, Counseling Services, Financial Assistance, Personal Records and Information: *Hours:* 8 am - 8 pm daily *Locations:* Coney Island-Our Lady of Solace 2866 W. 19th St. BROOKLYN; Gravesend - SSA Building 10 Bouck Ct. BROOKLYN; Far Rockaway 10-01 Beach 20th St. QUEENS; Staten Island 1976 Hylan Blvd. STATEN ISLAND

**New Jersey Repairs and Rebuilding:** The New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ may be able to help you to replace damaged equipment, by providing you with rebates and incentives towards the incremental cost of purchasing higher efficiency replacement equipment. Questions regarding the program also can be answered by calling toll-free to 1-866-657-6278.

**Connecticut:** Governor Malloy announces special incentives available to assist those facing energy-related reconstruction costs.

### 3. FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

#### REGISTERING FOR FEMA ASSISTANCE

The President declared major disasters for Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, making disaster assistance available to those in the heaviest hit areas affected by the storm. Disaster assistance is financial or direct assistance to individuals and families whose property has been damaged or destroyed as a result of a federally-declared disaster, and whose losses are not covered by insurance. It is meant to help you with critical expenses that cannot be covered in other ways. This assistance is not intended to restore your damaged property to its condition before the disaster.

## There are three ways to apply for assistance:

- Apply Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Apply via a smart phone at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov)
- Apply by Phone: - Call (800) 621-3362 - Call TTY (800) 462-7585 for people with speech or hearing disabilities.

## **Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs)**

A Disaster Recovery Center is a readily accessible facility or mobile office where applicants may go for free information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs, or for questions related to your case. DRCs will continue to open in the hardest hit areas to provide information to survivors. Currently, a total of 55 Disaster Recovery Centers are open in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Of that amount, 26 Disaster Recovery Centers are open in New York, 22 in New Jersey and seven in Connecticut and more continue to open. Specialists from the state, FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on the types of assistance available to survivors. The content is updated constantly, so be sure to check for updates, changes and new locations.

To find a disaster recovery center location, check out the disaster recovery center locator at [www.FEMA.gov/disaster-recovery-centers](http://www.FEMA.gov/disaster-recovery-centers) or by mobile phone at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov). You may also text **DRC** and a **Zip Code** to **43362** (4FEMA) For example, if you lived in Atlantic City, NJ you would text: DRC 08401.

Some of the DRC services may include:

- Assistance with the registration process
- Guidance regarding disaster recovery
- Clarification of any written correspondence received
- Housing Assistance and Rental Resource information
- Answers to questions, resolution to problems and referrals to agencies that may provide further assistance
- Status of applications being processed by FEMA
- SBA program information if there is a SBA Representative at the Disaster Recovery Center site

NOTE: You can register for assistance at a Disaster Recovery Center or you can [register online](#) or by calling **1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362)**. The TTY number is 1 (800) 462-7585 for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired.

The **Small Business Administration (SBA)**: provides loans to individuals as part of the [SBA Federal disaster loan assistance program](#). The SBA provides low interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, nonprofit organizations such as charities, churches and private universities, etc. to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery & equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster. During the FEMA disaster registration process, applicants should also apply for a disaster loan through the Small Business Administration. Registration with FEMA is required before applying for SBA disaster loan assistance.

Call: **1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing)**

## **Disaster Unemployment Assistance:**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits are available to those whose jobs were impacted by the hurricane who live or work in the counties included in the major disaster declaration for New York, including Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland and Westchester counties, and for all 21 counties in New Jersey. This may include people not normally eligible for unemployment benefits, such as self-employed persons and farm-workers. Registration closes December 3. Those in New York applying for unemployment benefits due to Hurricane Sandy should call the Telephone Claims Center (TCC) at 1-888-209-8124; and those in New Jersey should contact a New Jersey Reemployment Call Center at locations including Union City (201-601-4100), Freehold (732-761-2020) and Cumberland (856-507-2340).

## **4. HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS AFTER THE STORM**

[HUD: Dealing with the Aftermath - Steps To Take For a Storm Damaged Home](#)

[Rebuilding Water-Damaged Homes: A manual for the safe, healthy, green, and low-cost restoration of housing \(2009\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: Workplace Hazards and Safety Tips](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) - Returning Home after a Disaster: Be Healthy and Safe](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) - Prevent and Treat Other Illnesses and Injuries After a Hurricane or Flood](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) - Flood Cleanup](#)

## **5. MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE INFORMATION**

Government-sponsored mortgage backers Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) are offering mortgage relief to some borrowers whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The relief is available to borrowers whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Sandy and which are located in jurisdictions that President Obama has declared "major disaster areas." HUD granted a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearance on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured home mortgages. Homeowners in need of disaster relief should **contact their servicers** or call one of the numbers below.

Freddie Mac - 1-800-373-3343; [Press Release](#)

Fannie Mae - 1-800-732-6643; [Press Release](#)

FHA – 1-877-622-8525; New York - [Press Release](#)

FHA – 1-877-622-8525; New Jersey – [Press Release](#)

FHA – 1-877-622-8525; Connecticut – [Press Release](#)

FHA - 1-877-622-8525; Rhode Island - [Press Release](#)

## **6. OTHER AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Federal Trade Commission – Warns Consumers: Charity and Home Repair Scams May Appear After a Disaster](#)

To file complaints, call **1-877-382-4357**

[Justice Department Officials Raise Awareness of Disaster Fraud Hotline](#)

To report fraud related to Hurricane Sandy, call **1- 866-720-5721**

[Department of Labor – Hurricane Recovery Assistance:](#)

For information about unemployment benefits, call **1-866-487-2365**

**For more information, you may also contact the  
HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at  
[partnerships@hud.gov](mailto:partnerships@hud.gov) or 202-708-2404**

**[HUD Hurricane Sandy Information](#)**

**[HUD Disaster and Recovery Information Guide \(DRIG\)](#)**

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