



MEMA



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FEMA

Disaster News

May 20, 2011

DR-1972 / DR-1983-NR-010

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Tornado and River Flood Recovery Work Gains Momentum

\$6.2 MILLION APPROVED FOR MISSISSIPPI STORM SURVIVORS

CLINTON, Miss. – In just 12 days more than \$6.2 million in federal assistance has been approved for people in 40 Mississippi counties that were declared as two major disaster areas by the president following devastating tornadoes and historic Mississippi River flooding.

While many recovery efforts along the severely flooded Mississippi River are held back by the heavy flooding, state and federal disaster officials are primed and ready to speed work as soon as the water recedes.

The 40 counties where people are eligible to apply for state and federal help are: Adams, Alcorn, Attala, Bolivar, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clarke, Claiborne, Clay, Coahoma, DeSoto, Greene, Grenada, Hinds, Humphreys, Holmes, Issaquena, Jasper, Jefferson, Kemper, Lafayette, Leflore, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Smith, Sunflower, Tishomingo, Tunica, Warren, Washington, Webster Wilkinson, Winston and Yazoo.

Many forms of federal assistance are available, but people must first register by dialing **800-621-FEMA (3362)** any day between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. or **TTY 800-462-7585** for people with speech or hearing impairment. An application can also be made on FEMA's website, www.disasterassistance.gov at any time. A person may also track the status of an application on that site.

Here is a summary of all federal assistance to individuals in both disasters through Wednesday, May 19:

- **\$6,223,330** in total housing and personal needs has been approved.
- Of that amount, **\$4,252,093** has been approved for housing expenses, including temporary rental assistance, home repair costs and assistance toward replacing destroyed homes.
- **\$822,337** has been approved as "Other Needs Assistance" to cover essential disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses and lost personal possessions.
- **\$1,148,900** in loans to homeowners, renters or business owners has been approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- **7,184** applicants have registered with FEMA for some form of disaster assistance.
- **1,897** visits have been made at Disaster Recovery Centers operated jointly by FEMA and the state of Mississippi.
- **3,612** home inspections to confirm disaster damage have been completed.

(MORE)

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Page 2

- Teams of state and FEMA Community Relations field specialists have distributed more than **24,725 flyers** and worked in the affected counties to help identify and assist disaster survivors. In the course of explaining the recovery process, they have visited:
 - **5,504** residents
 - **707** businesses
 - **461** faith-based groups
 - **100** community organizations
 - **41** schools
 - **250** emergency managers, fire and law enforcement officials
 - **211** government officials
 - **39** post offices
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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.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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