

FEMA Continues Contacting Survivors Impacted by Hurricane Ian, Opens Additional Disaster Recovery Centers

Release Date: October 7, 2022

WASHINGTON -- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) specialists are working in communities hard-hit by Hurricane Ian to help disaster survivors apply for assistance and to provide critical information about resources.

In addition to the Disaster Recovery Centers in Lee and Sarasota counties, FEMA and its state partners opened additional centers today in Collier and Charlotte counties, and more are planned to open over the next few days. Additionally, hundreds of Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) specialists have been going door-to-door in Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

As of today, over 320,000 households have registered for assistance and FEMA has awarded over \$90 million in federal disaster assistance to Hurricane Ian survivors since the federal disaster declaration. Today, FEMA and the state of Florida activated the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program, providing eligible survivors who have applied for disaster assistance with TSA to shelter in a hotel or motel paid for by FEMA.



FEMA

Page 1 of 4



FEMA Personnel Helps Survivor Register for Assistance (Photo by FEMA Photographer)



FEMA Personnel Help Survivors Register for Assistance (Photo by FEMA Photographer)



FEMA Personnel Speaks with Survivor About Recovery Assistance (Photo by FEMA Photographer)

President Biden has declared that survivors in 19 Florida counties are eligible for Individual Assistance to help their recovery.

DSA teams travel door-to-door and to public locations in communities where survivors are located, such as shelters, food and water distribution sites and open grocery stores, providing additional information on how to access and apply for disaster assistance. They can also help survivors who may face barriers accessing assistance programs and resources to support their recovery.

Survivors should know that DSA staff typically wear FEMA attire, will **always** have FEMA photo identification and will **never** charge for assistance.

DSA specialists can help with:

- Submitting applications for federal assistance.



- Checking the status of an application already in the system or making minor changes to their applications.
- Providing civil rights and disability integration information to survivors who have difficulty accessing the application process in order to ensure equal access to FEMA programs.

Also, there are several Mobile Registration Intake Centers (MRICs) in the area. These locations will have DSA teams onsite assisting with applications, inquiries, updates and referrals.

Residents in the designated counties can also visit a Disaster Recovery Center or apply online at disasterassistance.gov, by calling 800-621-3362 or using the FEMA mobile app.

For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance, go to FEMA Accessible: How to Register with Disaster Survivor Assistance - YouTube.

For the latest on Hurricane Ian recovery in Florida, visit fema.gov/disaster/4673 and floridadisaster.org/info. Follow us on Twitter: [@FLSERT](https://twitter.com/FLSERT) and [@FEMARegion4](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion4).

