

Federal Funds and Information for New Jersey's Recovery Efforts from Flooding and Severe Storm Damage

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Washington, DC — From March 12 through April 15, 2010 thirteen counties in New Jersey suffered serious damage and witnessed severe flooding. President Obama swiftly signed Governor Christie's request on Friday, April 2, 2010 declaring a Major Disaster of those affected areas.

"My heart goes out to the families who lost loved ones and to those families whose homes were destroyed or damaged as a result of these horrific storms and flooding," said Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ). "This declaration will allow eligible New Jersey families to apply for much needed assistance and monies that will help them rebuild after this devastating damage. Below you will find information about the services and resources made available by the local, state, and federal governments. I hope you will find this information useful and should you need further assistance or have questions please contact my Hackensack District office at 201-646-0808."

Information from the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency:

Applying for Grants, Loans, and Other Resources

The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is in receipt of a Federally Declared Major Disaster Declaration (DR 1897) as a result of the March 12 through April 15, 2010 Flooding and Severe storm event. President Obama signed the Governor's Request on Friday, April 2, 2010.

FEMA announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of New Jersey to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the severe storms and flooding beginning on March 12, 2010, and continuing.

The declaration covers affected residents in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties as being eligible for federal assistance.

Residents of the affected Counties who have made application for Federal Assistance or who plan on making application for federal assistance will be contacted by fully credentialed Inspectors to schedule an appointment to inspect damage and to determine eligibility for any funded programs. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management has established Community Relations teams with our FEMA partners. These teams will be visiting the affected areas of the State to conduct further outreach to those residents who may be eligible and may be in need of assistance due to the most recent disaster.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Residents can apply for assistance:

- <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov>
- (800) 621-3362 (FEMA)
- <http://www.nj211.org/flood.cfm>

The recent declaration also includes Public Assistance for several Counties. Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and flooding in the counties of Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, and Somerset.

Register for Assistance

Residents of 12 New Jersey counties who suffered damages as a result of the severe storms and flooding that began on March 12 are urged to register for disaster assistance as soon as possible.

Federal funding has been made available to affected individuals in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said residents and business owners who sustained losses can register by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or for the speech or hearing impaired TTY 1-800-462-7585, or online anytime at www.disasterassistance.gov. These toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. seven days a

week, until further notice.

“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.”

Individuals and business owners should register even if they have flood insurance. Some losses may not be covered by insurance but federal grants may cover those expenses.

Registering with FEMA is required for federal assistance, even if the person has registered with another disaster relief organization such as the American Red Cross, local officials or churches. Applicants will need to provide:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged home or apartment
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where you can get mail
- Bank account and routing numbers if they want direct deposit of any financial assistance

“We understand that the people of New Jersey have been through some tough times, and we are here ready to help. We strongly recommend that you register right away,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer William L. Vogel.

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