

FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL REGION IX

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF INFORMATION

www.govbenefits.gov is a national website that will let victims and disaster relief workers know about the many disaster relief programs available. It has a variety of national benefit and assistance programs geared toward disaster recovery.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Food and Nutrition Service

www.fns.usda.gov/fns displays disaster information for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

Rural Development

www.rurdev.usda.gov/ and click on "Hurricane Katrina Resources" for information for USDA Rural Development customers needing assistance.

1-800-414-1226 is a toll-free number for residents living in Rural Development-financed apartments who have been displaced. Those residents are qualified to receive priority admission to any of Rural Development's vacant apartment units in the U.S.

Department of Education (DoED)

<http://www.ed.gov/news/hurricane/factsheet.html>

Department of Energy (DOE)

www.energy.gov provides a link to daily situational reports and updates.

www.electricity.doe.gov/about/about.cfm?section=about&level2=home is the direct link to the Office of Electricity Delivery and Electricity Reliability site giving daily reports relating to power conditions in the affected area. .

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

www.hhs.gov gives information on HHS efforts ranging from health and safety issues to information for grantees.

1-800-273-TALK (8255) is a crisis hotline for victims of Hurricane Katrina who will be connected to local crisis centers across the country. For the hearing impaired, the crisis hotline number is 1-800-799-4TTY (4889).

www.katrinadonations@hhs.gov is for individuals and organizations looking to donate large volumes of medications, medical supplies or medical equipment to be used in the relief effort.

Administration for Children & Families (ACF)

www.acf.hhs.gov/ gives information on TANF, Head Start, Child Care, and LIHEAP. Evacuees can use this website to access information on getting support.

Administration on Aging (AoA)

www.aoa.gov offers a link on Hurricane Katrina updates and information.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

www.cms.hhs.gov/katrina/ for general information

www.medicare.gov/Contacts/Include/DataSection/Results/Results.asp?version=default&browser=IE%7C6%7CWinXP&language=English&search_dest=Nav%7CHome%7CSearch%7CSearchCriteria&pagelist=Home&Org=P%7CState+Medical+Assistance+Office&State=Select+All+States&btnViewResults=View+Results&BeforeValidation=true&Type=ORGANIZATION&Top5=true&dest=NAV|Home|Search|Results|SearchCriteria for phone numbers for State Medical Assistance Offices (*you will need to cut and paste this URL into your browser*).

www.cms.hhs.gov/katrina/contacts.asp for Medicare Contractor and CMS Regional Office Contacts in the affected areas.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

www.fema.gov

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

Persons applying for assistance may contact FEMA at their website or by calling their toll-free number. FEMA plans to have 12,000 people available for telephone service by September 10.

Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

www.hud.gov

HUD has established two toll-free hotlines to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. The first, 1-888-297-8685, is to assist any displaced individual. The second, 1-800-955-2232, provides specialized help to Section 8 voucher holders and public housing residents. A live operator answers these lines from 8 am CDT to 8 pm CDT seven days a week.

Department of Labor (DOL)

www.dol.gov and click on the “Hurricane Recovery Assistance” page at the top to get information to help evacuees file unemployment insurance claims and access temporary and permanent job information.

1-866-4-USA-DOL is DOL’s National Contact Center for inquiries about unemployment insurance, disaster unemployment insurance, and National Emergency Grants.

www.jobsearch.org/katrinajobs has been established by DOL to connect workers impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina with employers who want to hire them.

www.ajb.org is America’s Job Bank that can be used for the same purpose.

www.dol.gov/esa/ofccp/index.htm for information on limited exemption and waivers from some of the requirements of the laws administered by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).

Department of Transportation (DOT)

www.fta.dot.gov is the Federal Transit Administration’s website which gives useful links to transportation-related Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

1-800-507-4571 is the toll-free number for veterans who normally receive health care at VA facilities in New Orleans, Gulfport, and Biloxi, MS. It can also be used by family members concerned about the location of veterans who were hospitalized at those facilities.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov/katrina/index.html

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

www.fdic.gov and click on “Hurricane Katrina – Information for Consumers and Bankers in the Affected Areas” link, which provides frequently updated FAQs for banks and customers in the affected areas, helpful banking tips for the victims, and other useful links and banking guidance.

1-877-ASK FDIC (275-3342) is the toll-free number of a 24/7 consumer hotline at a center staffed by FDIC to assist bank customers and bankers affected by Hurricane Katrina. The FDIC also has an email form for customers and bankers to submit questions.

General Services Administration (GSA)

www.FirstGov.gov has been updated by GSA to link to websites with more information for victims of the hurricane and all interested citizens.

www.FirstGov.gov_en_Espanol is the Spanish-language counterpart of the federal government's official portal given above.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

www.irs.gov and click on the "Helping Hurricane Katrina Victims" page to access information relating to storm and flood victims eligibility for disaster-area tax relief.

1-866-562-5227 is the toll-free number for people affected by Hurricane Katrina who need help with tax matters.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

To qualify for any kind of federal assistance, residents and business owners in the disaster areas must contact FEMA first at 1-800-621-FEMA. For more information on SBA's disaster loan program, visit the website or call the toll-free number.

www.sba.gov/disaster

1-800-659-2955

Social Security Administration (SSA)

www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency/

Social Security has not set up any special public numbers for the disaster. Information for everyone is available through 1-800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

9/15/05