FOR FLORIDA COUNTIES

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE NEARS FOR THREE NORTH FLORIDA COUNTIES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Eligible Leon, Wakulla and Levy county residents who lost wages, their jobs or businesses due to inclement weather between March 26 and May 5 have until June 15 at 7 p.m. to register for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

Although many workers are covered by the state’s regular unemployment compensation program, those not covered may be eligible for DUA. This is a federally funded program that assists individuals who become unemployed as a direct result of the declared disaster and who do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits. The program also covers self-employed individuals, owners of farms and ranches, farm and ranch workers as well as fishers and others who are not normally covered by state unemployment compensation.

DUA benefits are available to unemployed individuals for up to 26 weeks from the date of the disaster declaration. The 26-week assistance period for this disaster ends September 26, 2009. Anyone authorized to work in this country by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may be eligible for DUA benefits.

To be eligible for DUA benefits, the person must have been working in or residing in a county for which the disaster has been officially designated.

For information about how to apply and what documents are required, storm survivors can find information online at www.fluidnow.com or www.floridajobs.org, or by calling 800-204-2418, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

In addition to Leon, Wakulla and Levy counties, the Agency for Workforce Innovation is also providing DUA benefits to eligible applicants Calhoun, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Walton and Washington counties.

###

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and
protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management and State Emergency Response Team (SERT) coordinates disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs with all 67 counties and the federal government. For more information and to GET A PLAN! please visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.

###