NEARLY $7.7 MILLION IN FEDERAL DISASTER AID APPROVED FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Since Volusia County was declared a disaster area eligible for federal aid on May 27, more than 4,330 of the county’s storm survivors have registered for federal disaster assistance and nearly $7.7 million has been approved to help them recover.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved almost $6 million in grants through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) and $165,000 has been awarded to the state to conduct disaster crisis counseling for residents of Volusia County. In addition, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved nearly $1.6 million in low-interest disaster loans.

Disaster Assistance from FEMA

Breakdown of disaster assistance approved for homeowners and renters through July 01, 2009:

- **$4,662,154** has been disbursed for housing expenses, including temporary rental assistance, home repair costs and assistance toward replacing destroyed homes (part of IHP).
- **$1,277,746** has been approved for Other Needs Assistance (part of IHP) to cover expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster (e.g., medical, dental, funeral, personal property, transportation, moving and storage and other related expenses).
- **$165,000** has been granted to the Florida Department of Children and Families to provide disaster crisis counseling, through its program Project Hope, until at least July 26, 2009. At that time, if there is still a need and the state requests it, additional funds may be approved to continue the crisis counseling program.
- **3,601** home inspections to confirm disaster damage have been completed.
- Teams of state and FEMA Community Relations field specialists distributed thousands of flyers to help identify and assist disaster survivors. In the course of explaining the recovery process, they visited **11,014** residences, **1,153** businesses and numerous community-based organizations, schools and houses of worship.
- **3,969** visits were made to the two state/FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs).

Storm survivors are encouraged to register for assistance online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling FEMA’s toll-free Registration and Helpline at **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or (TTY) **800-462-7585**
for people with a speech or hearing impairment. Phone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. EDT seven days a week. Multilingual operators are available. The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is July 27, 2009.

**Disaster Assistance from the SBA**

As of **July 01, 2009**, the SBA had approved $1,563,800 in low-interest disaster loans for Volusia County residents and businesses. SBA’s Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOC) in Holly Hill and Daytona Beach assisted 36 and 62, respectively, storm survivors seeking information about low-interest disaster loans. Additionally, there were 17 visits to SBA’s Business Recovery Center in Holly Hill. The DLOCs and BRC will close at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 02, 2009. Volusia County residents who receive an application for a disaster loan from SBA have until July 27, 2009 to submit their application to the agency.

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers disaster loans with interest rates as low as 2.437 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4.000 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Homeowners may be eligible for up to $200,000 in disaster loans to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real property. Homeowners and renters are eligible to borrow up to $40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace real estate, inventory or other business assets.

For more information about disaster loans from SBA, contact the Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or **TTY 800-877-8339**. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela or visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

###

**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.*

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](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org).

###