MORE THAN $8.4 MILLION IN FEDERAL DISASTER AID APPROVED FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Since May 27 when Volusia County was designated a disaster area eligible for federal aid, 4,405 of the county’s storm survivors have registered for federal disaster assistance and more than $8.4 million has been approved to help them recover.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved more than $6.2 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 more than $2 million in low-interest disaster loans.

Disaster Assistance from FEMA

Breakdown of disaster assistance approved for homeowners and renters through July 15, 2009:

- **$4,868,094** has been disbursed for housing expenses, including temporary rental assistance, home repair costs and assistance toward replacing destroyed homes (part of IHP).
- **$1,347,849** 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.
- **3,700** 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, and 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 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.

www.fema.gov
Disaster Assistance from the SBA

As of **July 15, 2009**, the SBA had approved **$2,049,900** in low-interest disaster loans for Volusia County residents and businesses.

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](http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela) or visit SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). The deadline to submit a loan application for disaster assistance from the SBA is **July 27, 2009**.

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**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).

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