

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

TAFT REQUESTS FEDERAL AID FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE COSTS

State and local governments and private non-profit organizations may be eligible for reimbursement

COLUMBUS (September 9, 2005) - Governor Bob Taft today requested that the federal government help offset costs incurred by the State of Ohio, local governments and non-profit organizations that are helping with response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"I have determined that the situation is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments," stated Taft in a letter to President George W. Bush. "I am requesting that the federal share for Public Assistance - Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) be 100 percent of the eligible costs incurred in the continuation of our efforts during this extraordinary event."

Many state, local and non-profit organizations are already providing shelter, mass care and emergency protective measures, but preliminary estimates of the types and amount of emergency assistance needed to respond to this event cannot be determined at this time. It is anticipated that many additional law enforcement, emergency medical services, public health services, mental health services, and other social services will be necessary in the care of the displaced storm victims.

Additionally:

- The Ohio Emergency Management Agency, through the State Emergency Operations Center, is organizing the state's response efforts by coordinating available resources throughout the state, including state and local government agencies and private non-profit organizations.
- The State of Ohio has identified facilities, public housing, hotel rooms and other housing capable of accommodating more than 1,000 additional evacuees.
- The State of Ohio, American Red Cross and other similar organizations have made assistance available to thousands of displaced victims through various evacuee support systems.

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