



FEMA

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Disaster News

MORE THAN \$1 MILLION APPROVED FOR OHIO DISASTER ASSISTANCE

COLUMBUS, OH - In less than two weeks since President Bush issued a major disaster declaration, FEMA has approved a total of \$1,058,273 in disaster assistance, recovery officials announced today.

“At this point in the recovery process, we are focusing on and approving assistance through grants from the Individuals and Households Program (IHP),” explained Lee Champagne, FEMA’s coordinating officer. “This program provides temporary rental assistance for those whose homes have been destroyed or severely damaged and also funds repairs to make residences livable.”

IHP dollars approved for housing assistance total \$797,708 while the amount approved for Other Needs Assistance is \$260,565. This money is granted to cover eligible expenses such as medical, dental or funeral services, personal property replacement or transportation costs.

To date, a total of 1783 Ohio residents in the 18 disaster-declared counties had called to register for assistance. Federal and state officials urge others affected in the winter storms and flooding that occurred between December 22 and February 1 to register immediately by calling **1-800-621-FEMA or TTY 1-800-462-7585**. Phone lines will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily until further notice. People may also register for assistance online at their convenience at www.fema.gov.

“I encourage Ohioans affected by the disaster to visit a regional disaster recovery center to obtain additional information on programs and services or to check the status of their applications,” said Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani, state coordinating officer in the disaster recovery effort. “Staff at each center can also provide valuable information on how to prevent damage or loss in any future severe weather event.”

Disaster Recovery Center locations and schedules for this weekend and early next week are:

East Ohio - United Methodist Church Annex
599 Yellowbud Road
Yellowbud
Open for one day only – Saturday, February 26 - from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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East Ohio - Dillonvale Senior Center
46 Main Street
Dillonvale (between Martins Ferry and Steubenville)
Monday and Tuesday, February 28 and March 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Southeast Ohio – Riecker Building (Chamber of Commerce Room)
155 Main Street
McConnelsville
Monday - Wednesday, February 28 - March 2, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

South Central Ohio -Memorial Hall (Conference Room)
Corner of East Main Street & South Pickaway
Circleville
Monday and Tuesday, February 28 and March 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency coordinates the state's response and recovery from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. One of the primary focuses of the agency is to ensure that Ohio citizens are prepared to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters. During times of disasters, Ohio EMA coordinates activities of responding state agencies and maintains liaison with similar agencies of other states and of the federal government.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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