



# Disaster News

September 1, 2006

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## ONLY 30 DAYS LEFT TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

**CLEVELAND** – Individuals and businesses affected by the severe storms and flooding of July 27 through August 4 have 30 days to apply for state and federal disaster assistance before the **September 30 deadline**. More than **5,800** residents in the designated counties of **Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake** have applied for assistance and more than **\$15.7 million** in grants and low-interest loans have been approved.

Following is an update of recovery activities from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) as of close of business Wednesday, August 30.

- **5,802** individuals (homeowners and renters) from the declared counties have applied for assistance.
- **\$8.1 Million** in federal and state grants have been approved to date for applicants through the Individuals and Household Program. (This assistance may be used for temporary disaster housing assistance; repairing disaster-damaged, uninsured homes to a safe, sanitary and functional condition and replacement grants for serious, disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.)
- **\$7.6 Million** in U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans have been approved.
- **5,034** disaster loan applications have been issued by the SBA, including **4,577** for homeowners and renters and **457** for businesses. **SBA officials encourage anyone who has received an application from the SBA to submit it in as soon as possible in order to avoid delaying other forms of possible assistance.**

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### Assistance Still Just a Toll-Free Call Away

Federal and state officials urge anyone who suffered damages or loss from the severe storms, straight line winds and flooding from **July 27 through August 4** to apply for assistance by calling the FEMA toll-free registration number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the speech or hearing impaired. The lines are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily until further notice. Individuals also may register through the Internet at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). **The deadline to apply for assistance is September 30.**

### SBA Disaster Loan Assistance Centers Available

There are five (5) SBA Disaster Loan Assistance Centers, at which SBA representatives are available to answer questions and help individuals complete their low-interest loan applications. A FEMA representative also is on site to answer FEMA-related questions. The SBA loan centers are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except for the Eastlake and Painesville centers that will close at 4:30 p.m.). **All SBA loan assistance centers will close for the Labor Day holiday Monday, September 4.**

Northwest Ambulance District 1480 S. Broadway (State Route 534) Geneva, OH 44041	Lakeland Community College East 201 Water Tower Drive Madison, OH 44057
Mentor Senior Center (West Entrance) 6313 Center Street Mentor, OH 44060	
First Congregational United Church of Christ 22 Liberty Street Painesville, OH 44077 <b>On Sept 5, this center will relocate to:</b> Lake County Administrative Building Election Department 105 Main Street Painesville, OH 44077 <b>(Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.)</b>	Eastlake City Hall Building 35150 Lake Shore Boulevard Eastlake, OH 44077 <b>(Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri.)</b>

SBA offers disaster loans up to \$200,000 to repair disaster-damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to replace damaged personal property such as furniture and clothing. Loans to businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations up to \$1.5 million are available to repair or replace damaged real estate, machinery and equipment, supplies and inventory. Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are also available to small businesses unable to pay bills or meet operating expenses because of the disaster.

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*FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.*

*The Ohio EMA coordinates state assistance and resources during an emergency and prepares the state for all hazards through planning, training, exercises and funding activities at the state and local levels. This includes providing eligible assistance to individuals and governmental entities recovering from disaster-related damage and costs.*

*County EMA plans, trains, and exercises for any emergency/disaster, natural or man-made, that may impact the county. County EMA coordinates the local disaster declaration and, when needed, coordinates response and recovery efforts with the Ohio EMA and FEMA. After the disaster is over, county EMA works with local, state, and federal officials to identify and implement mitigation efforts, which may limit the occurrence of future disasters*

*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, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*