



Ocean County Department of Human Services Children's Inter Agency Coordinating Council Hurricane Recovery Resources

November 14, 2012

Our thoughts are with all of those affected by the recent weather events... and with all of you who are helping those in need! It is a difficult time in Ocean County, but we will get through this together.

A lot of information has been circulating with resources for those impacted by Hurricane Sandy. I've consolidated some of information that may still be relevant when working with children and families, especially through the transition back to school.

Recovery is a gradual process and so many organizations are mobilizing goods and/or services to restore Ocean County homes and businesses. The Department of Human Services is convening a Long Term Recovery Committee on November 19 from 8am until 12noon at the Holiday Inn in an attempt to streamline and create a formalized structure to coordinate recovery efforts Contact [Ryan Reilly](#) at 732-506-5374 to RSVP today.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

www.disasterassistance.gov | 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)

A consolidated application is available online for several types of federal disaster assistance programs. One application per household should be completed within 60 days of the disaster. FEMA is setting up various mobile centers throughout the county to answer questions and meet with those regarding claims, and will staff Disaster Recovery Centers throughout the state.

Disaster Recovery Centers

A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is a readily accessible facility or mobile office which applicants can visit for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs, or for questions related to their case. Other related agencies will be present as well. There are two DRCs in Ocean County that are opened from 8am-8pm daily:
Bell Crest Plaza, Store Front 4C, 953 Fischer Blvd, Toms River
Brick Township Civic Center, 270 Chambers Bridge Rd., Brick

Mobile Insurance Claims Units

Some insurance companies are offering claims processing at mobile catastrophe units located throughout the state. These locations provide an additional alternative for residents to file their insurance claims besides the typical routes such as through one's insurance agent or via telephone. [This list](#) will constantly be changing, so please check often. The NJ Department of Banking and Insurance will provide consumers with literature and answer general questions on property insurance, flood insurance, and

filing insurance claims at the Berkeley Township Recreation Center, 630 Route 9, Bayville from 9am-5pm.

New Jersey's 211

211 is a statewide call center that provides information about community resources, which is linked in to statewide disaster relief resources. There is a [Hurricane Resource page](#) available on their website and a [Hurricane Relief and Recovery Guide](#).

County and Municipal Websites

Many municipalities are utilizing their websites to disseminate vital information to residents, including information about access to restricted areas that have sustained significant damage. List of all [municipal websites](#) in New Jersey.

Shelter

The last American Red Cross emergency shelter operating in Ocean County is St. Mary's Parish in Manahawkin. Faith-based and community-based organizations may continue to house displaced individuals/ families, and families may have evacuated to hotels in other areas of the state as part of FEMA's Transitional Shelter Assistance Program. Those who were sheltered at one of the area schools have been moved to other centralized Red Cross locations, such as Monmouth Racetrack, awaiting transitional housing. Red Cross [shelter locator](#).

Food Assistance

The Sheriff's Department has compiled a list of organizations that are collecting and/or distributing donations, as well as those providing food pantries or soup kitchens. [This list](#) is constantly evolving and is not intended to be exhaustive. Contact [Detective Lieutenant Laurie B. Cahill](#) at 732.341-3451 to add your organization. The National Hunger Hotline is available at 1-866-3HUNGRY or 1-866-348-6479 to access the existing network of food pantries.

Families who received food stamps before the storm and live in an area where over 50% of the population was without power will [automatically](#) receive a reimbursement of 25% of their October monthly SNAP allotment. This allows replacement of a portion of food lost during power outages.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for persons, including self-employed individuals, who were living or working in the affected counties at the time of the disaster, and who are unemployed as a direct result of the damages caused by this storm. File a regular unemployment claim [online](#) and then call the regional Reemployment Call Center at 732-761-2020.

Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief for Individuals and Businesses from the IRS

Special tax law provisions may help taxpayers and businesses recover financially from the impact of a disaster. [Learn more.](#)

Displaced Students

All students who are displaced due to the storm are eligible for assistance through the existing McKinney Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth program. Students can enroll and attend school in the school where they are temporarily housed (or be bussed back to their home district), can receive help with school supplies, and are eligible for free lunch by virtue of the displacement. Contact [Alan Ferraro](#) at 732-262-2500 ext. 2803 for questions or more information. Alan sent detailed correspondence to the Homeless Liaisons and building contacts yesterday.

Emotional Distress in the Wake of a Disaster

Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after any natural or human-caused disaster. There is a national Disaster Distress Helpline available at 1-800-985-5990. The New Jersey Disaster Mental Health HelpLine is available at (877) 294-HELP (4357) for confidential mental health information and referrals. Print materials dealing with the emotional consequences of disaster and recovery are available from [SAMHSA](#). Scroll down to the bottom for a list of links. The [Ocean County Emergency Response Team](#) of Disaster Response Crisis Counselors are also available to provide critical incident stress management and psychological first aid techniques for disaster survivors.

Helping Children Cope with Disaster

The National Institute for Mental Health has several [publications](#) available for parents, community members, and emergency workers to help children cope with disasters. The NJ Traumatic Loss Coalition has also compiled a list of [resources](#) and a [discussion guide](#) for talking with youth about Hurricane Sandy. Contact Karen Bright, Coordinator of the Ocean County Traumatic Loss Coalition, at OceanTLC@aol.com.

Missing and Sheltered Pets

The Humane Society of the United States is encouraging Ocean County residents who are missing their pets to contact them with their name, address (where the animal would have been found), description of their pet, and phone number to reach them. Society workers and volunteers will look through their shelter for any animals found in or near their address that match the description. If their pet is not at the temporary shelter in Barnegat Township, the Humane Society can provide contact information to the other facilities where it might be found. The phone number is 609-384-0306.