

Louisiana and Texas receive Federal Declarations due to recent severe storms and flooding

Louisiana – FEMA DR-4263

Individuals and business owners that sustained damage in 26 Louisiana Parishes due to recent severe storms and flooding are encouraged to apply for federal disaster assistance.

Information to register for FEMA assistance is listed below.

Please check your parish website for information on potential openings of Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in your area.

Information on Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) Centers can be found here:

http://gohsep.la.gov/Portals/0/News/03182016_DCFUpdate.pdf

DISASTER SNAP BENEFITS PRE-REGISTRATION - The best way to pre-register is online at www.dcf.la.gov/dsnap. However, residents can also pre-register by phone at 1-888-LA-HELP-U (1-888-524-3578) daily between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Callers will select the appropriate language and then select options 3 and 3. All pre-registrants will have to provide the following information: • Name, Social Security Number and Date of Birth for each household member • Current address and parish of household • Monthly income for each household member • All liquid assets for each household member (cash on hand, checking, savings and money market account balances and certificates of deposit). The information will be kept securely on file and will be confidential. The pre-registration process does not guarantee benefits, but is designed to save time, minimize long waits and prevent applicants from coming to the site, only to find out that they do not have the right information.

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE - The Louisiana Workforce Commission is accepting applications for disaster unemployment assistance (DUA) from individuals whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted as a result of flooding from March 8-March 13, 2016. To file for disaster unemployment assistance, applicants should apply online at www.laworks.net or call the Benefits Analysis Team at 1-866-783-5567 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time. Additional information is available at www.laworks.net. Personal assistance is available through local Business and Career Solutions Centers.

Louisiana Disaster Info: www.emergency.la.gov

Texas – FEMA DR-4266

Individuals and business owners that sustained damage in Jasper, Newton and Orange Counties due to recent severe storms, tornadoes and flooding are encouraged to apply for federal disaster assistance.

For Both Louisiana and Texas:

FEMA: Register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web enabled mobile device at m.fema.gov. Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

Please have the following information available when you call:

- A phone number where we can reach you
- Social Security Number
- Current mailing address
- Address of the affected property
- Brief description of the damages
- Insurance information including policy number

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) - The SBA may provide low interest loans to businesses and individuals to repair or replace property that has been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster. Renters and Homeowners may borrow up to \$40,000 for clothing and other personal property. Homeowners may apply for up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence to its pre-disaster condition. A number of other resources are described at

the following link: <http://www.sba.gov/content/disaster-assistance>. You can view the current Presidential-level and SBA agency-level disaster declarations for your area at the following link <http://www.sba.gov/content/current-disaster-declarations>.

Additional Resources:

Disaster Assistance Resources: www.disasterassistance.gov

American Red Cross Shelters: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery/find-an-open-shelter>

DISASTER DISTRESS HOTLINE - SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline provides crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. The Disaster Distress Helpline is a national hotline dedicated to providing year-round immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster. Call **1-800-985-5990** or text **TalkWithUs to 66746** to connect with a trained crisis counselor.