



**Governor's Office of  
Homeland Security &  
Emergency Preparedness**

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**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 3, 2012

**Louisiana Residents Affected by Isaac Can Apply for  
Temporary Housing Assistance**

**BATON ROUGE** -- The state of Louisiana announced Sunday that residents in areas affected by Hurricane Isaac will be eligible for both short and long term housing assistance as their communities rebuild after Hurricane Isaac.

Residents of nine parishes are currently eligible for housing aid in the form of direct Rental Assistance through the Individual Assistance Program, which pays for rent in an apartment up to 18 months, though FEMA will determine how long people are eligible. The state has applied for Individual Assistance for residents of 23 parishes, but FEMA has so far authorized only nine -- Lafourche, Livingston, Ascension, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany. FEMA IA includes funding for home repair and/or replacement as well as rental costs.

In order to facilitate returning families to their homes as their Individual Assistance claims are being processed, the state has requested FEMA activate Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) in the nine parishes that have been approved for IA, which will bring them closer to their homes, their jobs, and their children's schools as quickly as possible. Through TSA, residents will be placed temporarily in hotel or motel rooms. FEMA is developing a list of available hotels and motels and residents of parishes approved for Individual Assistance will be eligible for TSA.

Louisiana residents who need to access Individual Assistance and TSA can do so online or in person at a shelter. FEMA workers are in both state shelters to assist with this registration process.

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TSA allows residents to move from a shelter or other temporary housing into a hotel or motel that may be closer to their home. To receive TSA, Louisiana residents who have already registered with FEMA will be notified if they qualify for TSA. TSA recipients will be able to choose any hotel on the list of participating hotels that will be provided by FEMA.

Residents should be aware of maximum levels of aid allowed by FEMA across all FEMA Individual Assistance programs. Rental Assistance will count against this maximum limit but TSA will not. In addition, eligible individuals may qualify for assistance with medical or dental costs, household items such as large appliances and furniture, fuel for primary heating and cooling units, and clean up items such as dehumidifiers.

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

To access TSA and Rental Assistance, residents must first register for FEMA assistance. Louisianans can register by applying online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or calling 1-800-621-3362. Those with speech or hearing impairments should call (TTY) 1-800-462-7585. Users of 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 1-800-621-3362.

If a person has already registered for disaster assistance from FEMA, he or she does not need to register again. FEMA will contact any registrant who is eligible for this rental assistance to explain how the benefit can be accessed. If someone calls to register for FEMA assistance and is eligible for housing aid, from this point forward, FEMA will complete the aid process with them at that time.

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