



NEWS RELEASE

JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA

September 3, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Advisory #42

FEMA: TRANSITIONAL SHELTERING ASSISTANCE APPROVED

At the request of the state of Louisiana, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated its “Transitional Sheltering Assistance” program for eligible Hurricane Isaac evacuees.

- FEMA’s **Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)** program allows eligible Hurricane Isaac evacuees to stay in hotels or motels if their homes are inaccessible or unlivable due to the disaster.
- The initiative is designed to provide short-term lodging for eligible disaster survivors who have continuing need for shelter after the congregate shelters have closed.
- Under the program, FEMA and the state are paying for eligible lodging expenses and taxes directly to hotels and motels. Applicants are responsible for their own meals and for any lodging costs above the authorized allowance.
- A listing of participating hotels is available online at www.FemaEvacHotels.com. (confirming if changed and should be included)
- To be eligible for TSA, evacuees must meet the following criteria:
 - FEMA must be able to verify their identity;
 - The person’s primary residence must be in one of the nine counties that has been designated for the TSA program; and
 - The primary residence must be inaccessible or unlivable due to the hurricane or subsequent flooding.
- Survivors must first apply for federal assistance through FEMA either by going online to www.disasterassistance.gov, by calling FEMA’s toll-free registration line

at **1-800-621-3362** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**. They can also register at m.fema.gov using a smart phone or tablet.

- **The phone lines are the best source of current information about the TSA program.**
- Home inspections *do not* need to be completed before applying for the hotel program. Once the home is determined to be accessible, and safe and functional to live in, however, eligibility for the TSA program ends.
- The TSA program **does not** reimburse applicants or hotels for previously incurred hotel expenses.
- Individuals and families found to be ineligible for the program will be provided referrals to local agencies for possible assistance with short-term lodging.
- Transitional sheltering is funded under FEMA's Public Assistance program, Category B, Emergency Protective Measures. FEMA pays the 75 percent federal share and the state pays the 25 percent nonfederal share.

The toll-free telephone numbers, **1-800-621-3362** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**, will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week.

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