

Sheltering and Immediate Assistance Available after Hurricane Harvey

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Washington –As Tropical Storm Harvey continues to batter eastern Texas and southwest Louisiana, life safety and access to safe shelters remain a priority of local responders, Texas officials, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the entire federal family.

More than 230 shelters are currently open across the affected and surrounding areas. [Download the FEMA mobile app](#) (available in English and Spanish) to register for assistance, and for directions to open shelters, a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, disaster survival tips, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service. The app also enables users to receive push notifications reminding them to take important steps to prepare their homes and families for disasters.

While immediate lifesaving and life sustaining operations are the priority for FEMA and our partners, residents and business owners in designated counties who sustained damage due to Tropical Storm Harvey, and are able to do so, should **apply for assistance by registering online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov>**.

Registering online is the quickest way to register for FEMA assistance since the event will last several days and the full scope of damages may not be evident until the storm has passed. If you do not have access to the internet you may register by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY). If you use 711 relay or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 800-621-3362 directly. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

For survivors who have registered, short-term housing assistance and other immediate funding is available:

- **Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)** was approved in Texas for eligible disaster survivors who have a continuing need for shelter because they are unable to return to their homes for an extended period of time. This initiative is intended to provide short-term lodging for eligible disaster survivors whose communities are either uninhabitable or inaccessible due to disaster-related damage. FEMA will contact you if you are eligible for the program. A listing of available properties under this program can be found at www.femaevachotels.com.
- **Two Months of Expedited Rental Assistance** was also approved in Texas for eligible disaster survivors. Due to the size of the disaster, FEMA is using coastal depth and riverine flooding data to identify damaged homes, so survivors can get funds quickly and begin making decisions regarding their temporary housing solutions.
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Advance Payments.** If a survivor has NFIP flood insurance and suffered damage during the recent floods related to Hurricane Harvey, they may be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 for building and contents damages prior to the adjuster's inspection with a signed advance payment request agreement. If a policyholder has photos and receipts that validate out-of-pocket expense, they may receive an advance payment up to \$10,000. If the flood



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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

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