

Assistance to Georgia Storm Survivors Nears \$8 Million; FEMA Deadline Ahead

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WARNER ROBINS, Ga. -- Working cooperatively, local, state and federal disaster recovery providers continue to assist southwest Georgians who suffered loss in the severe January storms, tornadoes and flooding. Thirty days after the disaster declaration, here's a look at some of the efforts to date.

- **\$2.9 million** in FEMA assistance was **approved** for individuals and households, including
 - **\$1.97 million** for home repairs and temporary housing; and
 - **\$952,629** for other disaster-related expenses and serious needs.
- **\$5 million** in disaster loans were **approved** for homeowners, renters and businesses by the U.S. Small Business Administration;
- Disaster Survivor Assistance Team members visited **2,363 homes** in the designated counties and **helped 294 survivors** register with FEMA for disaster aid;
- Seven temporary state/federal Disaster Recovery Centers opened to offer one-on-one assistance to survivors who made **2,257 visits** to these centers;
- FEMA's contract housing inspectors verified disaster damage at **2,877 properties**; and
- More than **650 residents** attended any of the **nine town hall meetings** conducted by local, state and federal representatives.

The deadline to register with FEMA for disaster assistance is March 27, 2017. Residents of Berrien, Cook, Crisp, Dougherty, Thomas, Turner, Wilcox, and Worth counties who suffered damage from the January storms may register by:

- Calling the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call **800-462-7585**. If you use 711 or VRS or require accommodations while visiting a center, call **800-621-3362**. The toll-free numbers are open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.;
- Going online to DisasterAssistance.gov;



- Downloading the FEMA app from Google Play or the Apple App Store or at fema.gov/mobile-app;
- Visiting a Disaster Recovery Center. To find the nearest, go to: <https://asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/home.htm>.

All disaster recovery centers are accessible and equipped with tools to accommodate disaster survivors who need disability-related communication aids.

Help is available in most languages, and information on the registration process is available in ASL at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/111546>.

Under the FEMA Public Assistance program, 69 Requests for Public Assistance have been filed with FEMA by government entities and certain private nonprofits for help in repairing or replacing infrastructure and buildings damaged in the storms. FEMA shoulders at least 75 percent of the costs of eligible projects, with the beneficiaries responsible for the remainder.

The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is available throughout the state of Georgia. This program provides funds for projects that seek to reduce or avoid damage in future disasters.

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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.

