

EVACUEE ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

It is VERY important for **every evacuee** from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana who has been displaced by Hurricane Katrina to **register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** by calling toll free **1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362)** or registering on line at www.fema.gov. This will begin the process for individuals in Michigan to receive assistance benefits and crisis counseling. It is important that those registering with FEMA maintain a current mailing address. Each time an evacuee moves, they **MUST** provide a **change of address** to FEMA. This should be done by again contacting FEMA at **1-800-621-FEMA** or on line at www.fema.gov.

The **Michigan Department of Human Services** (formerly Family Independence Agency) will be the lead state agency coordinating emergency assistance for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Evacuees can contact **any local Human Services Office** by referring to the government pages of local phone books. They can also access assistance through their website at www.michigan.gov/dhs. Michigan Department of Human Services will assist in **school enrollment** for displaced persons, **employment assistance** for those seeking work, filing for disaster **unemployment benefits** which is available for displaced workers and those who may have been self-employed, **housing assistance**, **medical assistance**, **transportation needs**, and **other community based services**.

The **Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross** will support relief efforts in providing emergency services to evacuees by calling toll free **1-888-782-9322**; and help you connect with your LOVED ONES by visiting their website at www.redcross.org or calling **1-877-LOVED 1S (1-877-568-3317)**.

The **US Social Security Administration (SSA)** is working hard to be sure that evacuees receive their benefit checks without delay. If recipients have not received their September 1 payments either by mail or direct deposit, **checks can be issued immediately** by contacting any **local SSA office**, calling **1-800-772-1313**, or visit their website at www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency. Local SSA offices have the ability to speed up the normal 2 week waiting period for **replacement social security cards**, by immediately issuing a printout acting as a temporary card. This will be important for job placement, school enrollment, and medical assistance. **Application for survivor benefits** must be requested by visiting any local SSA Office.

The **US Department of Labor** can be contacted for **job assistance** or to receive disaster **unemployment benefits** by calling **1-888-4USADOL (1-888-487-2365)** or **visiting their website at www.dol.gov**. These benefits may also be available to the self-employed populations who have relocated.

Change of addresses should also be done through the **US Postal Service** to ensure evacuees receive their FEMA packets and social security benefits without interruption. Change of addresses can be done at any **local post office** or on line at <http://moversguide.usps.com/?referral+usps>.

www.michigan.gov

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