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Faithfully, Peter

PETER B. GUDAITIS, M.DIV.
Executive Director & CEO

If you have some news to share or an upcoming event to publicize please contact yperry@nydis.org

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DISASTER AID AVAILABLE FOR UPSTATE FLOOD VICTIMS

■ FEMA Aid Information

Homeowners, renters, and business owners in 12 hard-hit upstate counties can now apply for disaster aid by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) toll-free registration number. Phone lines are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Flood victims may also register for disaster assistance online at www.fema.gov.



The 12 counties are: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Orange, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga, and Ulster.

"We are working to make sure help is there," said Marianne C. Jackson, federal coordinating officer for FEMA. "Under the leadership of Governor Pataki, New York has already set up Disaster Assistance Service Centers where we will work shoulder-to-shoulder with our state partners to help flood victims."

Disaster aid includes grants for rental assistance, home repairs and other disaster-related needs. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available for those who qualify. Federal/state disaster assistance covers basic needs that are not insured.

To apply:
800.621.FEMA (3362)
800.462.7585 (TTY)

www.fema.gov

Download flyer:
www.nydis.org/resources/materials/FEMA_Upstate_Flooding.pdf

■ NY State Aid Information

Governor George E. Pataki announced the creation of six centrally located Disaster Assistance Service Centers that will provide victims of last week's floods with critical services and information from State and local agencies and charitable organizations. The Disaster Assistance Service Centers located in Broome, Delaware, Otsego, and Sullivan counties will begin providing services July 3rd at 1 p.m., while the Herkimer and Montgomery centers will begin operations at 8 a.m. on Tuesday July 4th.



"These Disaster Assistance Service Centers will give New York's flood victims the help and assistance they need to begin the overwhelming

task of rebuilding their lives," Governor Pataki said. "Working together, we will continue to help our neighbors and communities recover from the tremendous devastation caused by the unprecedented flooding."

The Disaster Assistance Service Centers give homeowners, renters and small business owners the opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives from State and local agencies and volunteer organizations to discuss and access disaster recovery assistance.

The Disaster Assistance Service Centers opening today will be at the following county locations and will be open from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. today and will remain open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including July 4, until further notice:

- **Broome County:** Binghamton High School, 31 Main Street, Binghamton, NY
- **Delaware County:** Walton High School, 47-49 Stockton Avenue, Walton, NY
- **Otsego County:** SUNY Campus, Lee Hall, Ravena Parkway, Oneonta, NY
- **Sullivan County:** Sullivan County International Airport, Terminal Building, County Route 183A, White Lake, NY

The Disaster Assistance Service Centers scheduled to open at 8 a.m. Tuesday July 4th will be at the following locations and will remain open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily until further notice:

- **Herkimer County:** Herkimer BOCES, 352 Gros Blvd., Herkimer, NY
- **Montgomery County:** Fonda-Fultonville CSD Campus (Middle School), 112 Old Johnstown Road, Fonda, NY

Representatives from the following agencies will be located at the Disaster Assistance Service Centers to provide flood victims with critical services and information:

- **NYS Department of Labor** - Personnel will be on hand to answer questions and help flood victims register for the new State Individual and Family Grant Program, as well as provide information on Unemployment Insurance (UI), and other employment information.
- **County Social Services Offices** - Specialists will help facilitate applications for Temporary Assistance, Food Stamps and Medicaid. A common application form will be provided to victims to apply for each program simultaneously. Expedited Food Stamps, Emergency Assistance, and Medicaid can be provided with minimal documentation requirements.
- **NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal** - DHCR personnel will be available to discuss housing plans with displaced persons. Specifically, they will provide a list of long term housing referrals to the client and caseworkers.
- **NYS Insurance Department** - Specialists from the Insurance Department's Consumer Services Bureau will be on hand to field questions and provide information about auto, property, life and health insurance.
- **NYS and/or County Office of Mental Health** - Personnel will coordinate mental health services, including crisis counseling.
- **NYS Office of Children and Family Services** - OCFS will coordinate and assist with any needs for daycare services.
- **The American Red Cross** - The Red Cross will provide Red

Cross Recovery tips, information on how Red Cross assistance works, and the location of Red Cross Service Delivery Centers.

- **The Salvation Army** - The Salvation Army will provide assistance with case management and data entry for individuals and families. Upon request, personnel will provide emotional and spiritual counseling as needed.

Also in the coming days, the Empire State Development Corporation, New York's lead economic development agency, will have representatives on hand at the Disaster Assistance Service Centers to provide businesses affected by the floods with advice and assistance identifying applicable state economic programs to help in their speedy recovery.

The Disaster Assistance Service Centers are the first step in the \$35 million New York State Flood Relief Program the Governor announced last Friday to hasten the recovery process within the Empire State. The program's centerpiece is a \$25 million State Individual and Family Grant Program, which will provide individuals, families, and small businesses with grants of up to \$5,000 for documented flood losses not covered by insurance or other government programs. This assistance program, administered by the State Department of Labor, will use funding appropriated in the enacted 2006-07 State Budget to ensure the assistance is available in a timely manner.

For assistance:
888.7769.7243
NYS Relay 711 (TTY)

www.semo.state.ny.us

Download flyer:
www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYS_Flood_Recovery.pdf

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