



Statewide Parent  
Advocacy Network

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35 Halsey St., Fourth Floor, Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973-642-8100 Fax: 973-642-8080  
Toll-free: 1-800-654-SPAN  
Website: [www.spanadvocacy.org](http://www.spanadvocacy.org)

## TIPS FOR AGENCIES WORKING WITH FAMILIES IMPACTED BY HURRICANE SANDY

Please also see SPAN's Economic & Health Resources for Families, available in English and Spanish, on our website at <http://www.spanadvocacy.org/content/economic-health-resources-families-nj> (English) <http://www.spanadvocacy.org/content/recursos-economica-y-con-la-salud-para-familias> (Espanol) or call us to get information or for a copy of these handouts at 800-654-SPAN (7726). Check us out at [www.spanadvocacy.org](http://www.spanadvocacy.org), on our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter @spanvoice.

### General Information

Call 211 if you need information on local resources in your county/community. You can find information at <http://www.nj211.org/hurricane.cfm> on local resources as well as information on road closures, shelters, mass transit, emergency updates, where to find gas (Twitter #njgas) or to charge phones, what businesses are open (Twitter #njopen), finding an open grocery store ([www.nj211.org/hurricane.cfm#food](http://www.nj211.org/hurricane.cfm#food)) or pharmacy ([www.nj211.org/hurricane.cfm#rx](http://www.nj211.org/hurricane.cfm#rx)), and where to get emotional support (New Jersey MentalHealthCares' Disaster Helpline: 1-877-294-4357. A TTY line is available at (877) 294-4356, and translation services are available in Spanish), etc. The NJ Office of Emergency Management provides a list of gas stations, pharmacies, restaurants and hotels open for business at <http://readynj.posterous.com/list-of-pharmacies-hotels-restaurants-and-gas>. The **NJ Department of Health** has public health experts available to answer questions about food or water safety, and mold removal. Call 211 (24/7) or 1-866-234-0964 (8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on weekdays and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on weekends).

### Medication:

**If medicine is lost:** If prescriptions are ruined because of lack of refrigeration, call your pharmacy (if they are open) and they will contact your doctor's office (if they are open) to get the prescription refilled.

If you are a **Medicaid** recipient, contact your HMO; they may have emergency information on pharmacies that you can use if your pharmacy is not open. Anyone affected by Hurricane Sandy on **Pfizer** medications who needs assistance can contact the Pfizer Connection to Care program @ 1-866-706-2400 and follow the prompts for an operator. They should inform the operator they are on a Pfizer Medicine and have been a victim of Hurricane Sandy. They will then be given instructions on how to receive an application to apply. Those who qualify will receive a 90 day supply of their Pfizer medicine to maintain their therapy. Additionally, Pfizer may be able to help through their MAINTAIN program if individuals have been left unemployed after the hurricane and do not have insurance.

**RX4NJ: Subsidized Prescription Medicines:** Rx4NJ helps NJ residents with limited incomes and no health insurance get free or substantially discounted brand-name prescription medicines.. For more information, call 1-888-RXFORNJ (1-888-793-6765) or go to [www.rx4nj.org](http://www.rx4nj.org) . Operators determine whether you are eligible by asking about 10 questions. They then fill out required forms and send them to you, so you can get them signed by your doctor. You then provide proof of your income (eligibility is restricted to families earning no more than twice the federal poverty level, \$36,000/year for a family of four). You send this information to the drug company, who sends the medicine to you or your doctor.



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### **Applying for Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid/NJ Family Care, Low Income Home Energy Assistance:**

**NJ HELPS WEBSITE:** The NJ Department of Human Services has a "NJ Helps Website" at <http://www.njhelps.org> to help NJ residents determine if they are eligible for programs such as food stamps, general assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, NJ Family Care, child care assistance, kinship care, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance. *NJHelps* is a **free** and **easy** way for families to prescreen for 8 programs that are available to help you and your family. *NJHelps* is **private**; you do not have to reveal who you are and your information is not shared with anyone. *NJHelps* will tell you where to go for help and what to bring with you. *NJHelps* **cannot** guarantee that you qualify for these programs. You must still apply for help by contacting and filling out the required forms for each program. You can apply online in English or Spanish for food stamps and TANF at <https://oneapp.dhs.state.nj>. You can apply for assistance in person at your county social services office.

### **Utility Payment Assistance & Reporting Utility Problems:**

**Call "2-1-1" / 1.800.510.3102 (LIHEAP) / 1.866.240.1347 (USF), if you need help.** They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Language translation and TTY services are offered to any caller who needs it. NJ 2-1-1 call specialists will provide you with the location and hours of your local application agency, explain how the various home energy assistance programs work, check on the status of your application once it has been filed, and help you find alternative resources if you don't qualify for the utility assistance programs.

If you have a **utility-related emergency**, dial 911, but to report **power outages**, contact your local utility company: PSE&G 800-436-7734; Atlantic City Electric 800-833-7476; or South Jersey Gas 800-582-7060.

### **Applying for Storm-Related Disaster Unemployment Insurance:**

Residents, including self-employed individuals, of Atlantic, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union Counties may qualify for federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. If you are unemployed because of damage of Hurricane Sandy, please file for benefits by going to <https://njsuccess.dol.state.nj.us/html/uimain.html>. Those seeking benefits under this program must apply by December 3, 2012.

### **Special Child Health Services Case Management Units (SCHS CMU)**

If you have a child with special healthcare needs, and want to find out if your county SCHS Case Management Unit is open and functioning, call the NJ Department of Health at 609-777-7778.

### **Doing Laundry**

Go to [www.TIDELoadsofHope.com](http://www.TIDELoadsofHope.com) to get information on where they will have their laundry trucks.



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### Information on Federation Emergency Management Assistance

#### What do I do if I want to apply for disaster assistance on the phone or on line?

Applicants may call FEMA's Call Center at 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY), and/or apply directly to the agencies individually using the processes currently in place (phone, mailed application, fax, etc.). Apply online at <http://www.fema.gov/register.shtm>

#### Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families Can Include:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for up to three months for homeowners and at least one month for renters.
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional.
- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs.
- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals.
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses.
- Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; assistance for legal, veterans' benefits and social security matters.

**How to Apply for FEMA Assistance:** You can begin the disaster application process by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov), by web enabled mobile device at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov) or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. **Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362.** The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses. You can get detailed tips on applying for FEMA assistance at <http://www.nj211.org/hurricanefema.cfm>. You can find out information on your closest Disaster Recovery Center, where you can meet with program representatives and get information about aid and the recovery process, at 800-621-3362 or on-line at <http://asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/home.htm>. Spanish-speaking Twitter users can get updates at @FEMAEspañol.

If you are having difficulty navigating the FEMA process, you may contact your federal representatives:

Senator Bob Menendez: (856) 757-5353	Senator Frank Lautenberg: (856) 338-8922
Congressman Rob Andrews: (856) 546-5100	Congressman Rush Holt: (609) 750-9365
Congressman Frank LoBiondo: (609) 625-5008	Congressman Jon Runyan: (856) 780-6436
Congressman Chris Smith: (609) 585-7878	Congressman Scott Garrett: (201) 444-5454
Congressman Frank Pallone: (732) 249-8892	Congressman Bill Pascrell: (973) 523-5152
Congressman Steve Rothman: (201) 646-0808	Congressman R. Frelinghuysen: (973) 984-0711
Congressman Albio Sires: (201) 222-2828	