

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Steffanie Bell
609-777-2600

RELEASE: December 13, 1999

GOVERNOR URGES RESIDENTS TO REGISTER FOR FLOOD RELIEF FUNDS BEFORE FRIDAY DEADLINE

Governor Whitman today urged New Jerseyans who were victims of Tropical Storm Floyd to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for federal disaster assistance, before Friday's December 17th deadline. Residents seeking state aid must also be registered with FEMA before they can receive state assistance.

"Many New Jerseyans felt the effects of the worst natural disaster the state has experienced. The deadline for those people to register with FEMA for federal assistance is this Friday and I want to make sure that people are taking advantage of the help that is being offered to them by getting registered and applying for the aid that is there," the Governor said. "Registering with FEMA will also allow residents to apply for the state aid we have set aside to close the gaps, to help people rebuild their lives."

Governor Whitman actively lobbied leaders in Washington for assistance in dealing with Floyd's destruction. The Governor also signed legislation that allowed the state to pick up where the federal government left off by providing additional relief programs.

Governor Whitman signed the Emergency Relief Act of 1999 in October, appropriating \$50 million from the state's Surplus Revenue Fund for Tropical Storm Floyd disaster relief. Twenty million dollars in grant money, administered by the Department of Human Services, is available in amounts up to \$15,000 for residents who have registered with FEMA and have already applied for all aid provided by the federal government. In addition, \$20 million was set aside for county block grants to fund unmet county and municipal government needs, as well as to assist businesses with their recovery. The final \$10 million is to cover flood mitigation.

People who still need to register with FEMA should call toll- free, 1-800-462-9029.