

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR'S WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS DISCUSSES NEW DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

In this week's address, Governor Whitman talks about a new flood relief program that was created to help those individuals affected by flooding from Tropical Storm Floyd. The program is designed to help flood victims whose needs were not fully met through their insurance and through available federal aid.

The state is also sending funds to help small businesses directly to each of the nine counties declared a disaster area. Small business owners will be able to apply for grants through their county governments.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

The address is also available on our website at <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/radio2.html>.

Radio Message for November 12, 1999 Tropical Storm Floyd Flood Relief

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman.

On September 16th, New Jersey suffered the greatest natural disaster in its history - Tropical Storm Floyd. Causing as much as one billion dollars in damage, this storm devastated the lives and property of thousands of residents across our state.

In the two months since this disaster hit, the victims of the storm have been working hard to rebuild their lives. It hasn't been easy. The extent of the damage has made recovery difficult. Trying to undo the damage done by a record flood takes a toll, both on one's resources and on one's spirit.

Fortunately, our neighbors in need haven't been alone. As I visited those areas most seriously hit by the storm, I have been inspired by the numerous

examples I've seen of our citizens coming together to help one another. It shows that New Jersey's many faces truly are one family.

The dedicated professionals of both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and our State Police's Office of Emergency Management have been doing their utmost to help people recover. Their efforts have been fortified by countless other paid and volunteer professionals and others who have been lending a much-appreciated and much-needed helping hand.

Because this storm was a storm of record, the state has developed a program to provide grants to the people most severely affected. These grants will supplement the financial assistance already provided by the federal government.

Our program, called the New Jersey Disaster Relief Program, is designed to help those individuals whose needs were not fully met through their insurance and through available federal aid. By providing grants up to \$15,000, we are helping those who suffered the most to rebuild their lives. We have already started to distribute these grants to those most in need.

We have also established a way to help small businesses recover from the losses they suffered. The state is sending funds to help small businesses directly to each of the nine counties declared a disaster area. That way, the counties can distribute the money in ways that will be most effective in rebuilding their damaged business districts.

People who have suffered from this storm should be sure to register with FEMA through its toll-free number. The number is 1-800-462-9029. That's 1-800-462-9029. Only by registering with FEMA will you be considered for one of our individual grants. Now that FEMA has agreed to our request to extend the deadline, you have until December 16th to register.

Small business owners will be able to apply for grants through their county governments. Each county is in the process of establishing its program. In the meantime, small business owners who did not also suffer personal property damage should be sure to contact the Small Business Administration at 1-800-659-2955. That's 1-800-659-2955.

The enormity of this storm has also helped demonstrate the enormous heart of the people of our state. People have come together, neighbor helping neighbor, and stranger helping stranger, in response to this terrible tragedy. Together, we will help our friends and neighbors rebuild.

Thank you, and have a great week.

