



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
(609) 777-2600

TRENTON, NJ 08625
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Whitman Request for Emergency Aid to Flood Victims Granted by President

Responding to Governor Christie Whitman's request for emergency federal aid for flood damage caused by torrential rains on August 20 and 21, President Clinton has formally declared Atlantic County a disaster area, making it eligible for federal assistance.

Presidential Disaster Declaration #1189 has identified Atlantic County as a disaster area, making it eligible for a variety of federal assistance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

"This is great news for people in Atlantic County," said Whitman. "We hope the federal aid will go a long way to help people get their homes back in order and their businesses up and running again. We'll be working closely with FEMA to ensure that those impacted by the flooding are identified, and receive the help they need as quickly as possible. Congressman Frank LoBiondo and Senator Robert Torricelli have been instrumental in securing this needed aid, and we thank them for their hard work."

"At long last, the people of Atlantic County are going to receive much needed assistance as they work to repair the damage of last month's flood," said Senator Robert Torricelli. "I am grateful that FEMA has recognized the devastating impact of the floods, and I am hopeful that with their help the affected communities can begin to rebuild."

"I am pleased that Atlantic County will receive federal disaster assistance," said U.S. Representative Frank LoBiondo. "After visiting many of the damaged sites, I can say from first hand experience that the residents of Atlantic County clearly deserve federal help."

Over the next two weeks, officials from the Federal Emergency Management Administration will work with state representatives to begin a public outreach process. Officials will begin collecting claims by residents and businesses for reimbursement for damages caused by the flooding.

Federal assistance will be available under a number of funding categories, including the individual assistance program, to reimburse residents for damage to their property; public assistance, to providing funding for repairs to state and local infrastructure; and hazardous mitigation assistance, to provide funding local and county governments to address recurring damage, such as chronic flooding.

New Jersey had requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland and Ocean Counties. Businesses located in the four counties which were not declared disaster areas may still be eligible for assistance from the federal Small Business Administration.

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