



## Assistance for Katrina Evacuees Residing in New York City

**We will update this chart as new information becomes available. Please check back!**

To find information on any of the government offices listed below please call 311 or access the Self-Sufficiency Calculator's borough contact pages.

**To expedite benefits and other services**, it is best that evacuees visit the Disaster Assistance Center (listed below). If they apply anywhere else make sure evacuees let offices know they are Katrina Evacuees and are in need of emergency assistance.

**Documentation:** For most government programs it is sufficient to "self-declare" as an evacuee to apply for benefits. Normal rules for proving income, resource and immigration status have also been waived for most programs. (For Food Stamps, relaxed application and eligibility rules ended on Oct. 31. However, self-attestations of income, citizenship, assets, etc. will be accepted through December if documentation is not available.) Evacuees may have to call SSA (listed below) to apply for new social security cards, but not having one will not slow down the application process.

<b>Register with FEMA for Disaster Assistance</b>	1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) to be placed on the Disaster registry. Go to <a href="http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/katrinagovbenefits.shtm">http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/katrinagovbenefits.shtm</a> for information on benefits available to Katrina evacuees.
<b>NYC Disaster Assistance Center</b>	To help evacuees apply for public benefits and receive other assistance New York has opened a Welcome Center 80 Center Street. Monday-Saturday, 8:30am-7pm; Sunday, 10am-5pm.
<b>Housing</b>	Evacuees looking for housing and NYC residents offering housing can call 1-888-7-NYS-AID (888-769-7243) for the national FEMA registry on housing, Mon.–Fri., 9am-9pm; Sat-Sun 10am-4pm.
<b>Food Stamps*</b> (cash assistance for food purchases)	<p><b>Prior Recipients:</b> Evacuees with EBT cards can continue to use them here in NYC. If the EBT card is lost or they want to move their Food Stamp grant to NY, they can go to a local Food Stamp Office. Information on their cases can be found by calling:  Alabama: 1-866-465-2285 Louisiana: 1-888-524-3578  Mississippi: status 1-800-948-4060, replacement EBT 1-866-449-9488</p> <p><b>New Applicants:</b> Evacuees who applied before October 31<sup>st</sup> received the maximum Food Stamp benefit amount for their household size for the first month regardless of income, resources, immigration status or other "non-financial" requirements. They continue to be eligible for benefits under relaxed eligibility rules through December 2005. Evacuees who apply after</p>

	<p>October 31<sup>st</sup> must meet all regular eligibility requirements. Evacuees are considered their own household even if they are living with NYC residents. Evacuees do not need to disclose information about <u>student or immigration status</u>, even if asked.</p>
<p><b>Public Assistance</b> (Welfare: cash assistance for basic needs)</p>	<p><b>Prior Recipients and New Applicants:</b> Evacuees can go to a local “job center” to apply for Public Assistance, Food Stamps, and Medicaid combined. Public assistance applications for evacuees will be processed even without full documentation of income, resources and other eligibility requirements until this documentation becomes available. Work requirements are waived for evacuees receiving short-term benefits, and they will be considered as their own household even if they are living with NYC residents. Evacuees do not need to disclose information about <u>student or immigration status</u>, even if asked.</p>
<p><b>Medicaid*</b> (free health insurance)</p>	<p><b>Prior Recipients:</b> Evacuees enrolled in Medicaid in their home state should receive service in NY without applying for NY Medicaid.  <b>New Applicants:</b> Complete documentation is not required for children under 19, parents with children and SSI-related individuals. However these applicants must provide ID, a Social Security Number, and full address of their last residence before the hurricane. Single people, childless couples, 19 and 20 year olds, and people with certain immigration status must provide full documentation. Applicants should go to the Medicaid office to apply (not a local community enroller).</p>
<p><b>Social Security Benefits</b> (assistance for the elderly, disabled or widowed)</p>	<p><b>Prior Recipients:</b> To change the address for payments call 1-800-772-1213/1-800-325-0778 (TTY).  <b>New Applicants:</b> Survivors of people who died during Hurricane Katrina and people injured during the hurricane may be eligible for Social Security Benefits. Visit a local Social Security Office or contact 1-800-772-1213/1-800-325-0778 (TTY).</p>
<p><b>Unemployment Insurance</b> (cash assistance while searching for employment)</p>	<p><b>New Applicants:</b> If an evacuee worked at any time between now and April 2004 and is now unable to work, they may qualify for Unemployment Insurance or Disaster Unemployment Insurance. Immigrants will have to prove they had authorization to work.  Louisiana call: 1-800-818-7811 (3:00 pm - 7:00 pm) or 1-866-783-5567.  Mississippi call: 1-888-844-3577 (7:00 am - 6:30 pm)  Alabama call: 1-866-234-5382 (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)  For helping finding a job: <a href="http://www.jobsearch.org/katrinajobs">http://www.jobsearch.org/katrinajobs</a></p>
<p><b>Education</b> (school-aged children PK-12) <b>Higher Education</b></p>	<p>Parents with children <b>PK through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> can call NY-TEACHS 1-800-388-2014 (toll free) or 631-232-4064.  Parents with <b>children with special needs</b> can call 1-518-402-3353.  Legal Services for Children will also provide aid to families with special education needs. Call (212)683-7999.</p>

	<b>City University of New York Hotline for Students Displaced by Hurricane Katrina:</b> 1-800-CUNY-YES.
<b>Veteran's Administration</b>	<b>Prior Recipients and New Applicants:</b> can contact 1-800-827-1000 or visit any VA center for information about VA benefits or payments.
<b>WIC*</b> (supplemental food for low-income pregnant women and children under 5)	<b>Prior Recipients and New Applicants:</b> Evacuees can continue receiving WIC benefits in New York by calling 1-800-522-5006 to find their local WIC office. It is sufficient to state their income and residency to continue receiving benefits.
<b>Services for the Aging</b>	Senior Citizen's Hotline (800) 342-9871 Information and Referral (212) 442-1000 Bilingual Helpline assists Spanish-speaking elderly (212) 442-3010
<b>Red Cross</b>	212.875-2000 or 800.975-7585

\*For more detailed information about these benefits and Hurricane Katrina Evacuees please visit the Children's Defense Fund's website at: <http://www.cdfny.org/katrinarelief.htm>

November 8, 2005