Disaster Aid for Peoria County

Chicago—Residents of Peoria County, Ill., are now eligible to apply for federal assistance to help them recover from uninsured losses caused by the flooding and severe storms in September.

Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) today announced the addition of Peoria to the eight other Illinois counties (Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, LaSalle, Will and Woodford) that were already designated for individual assistance as the result of a federal disaster declaration on Oct. 3. Peoria was added following a review of data on damage its residents sustained during the severe weather Sept. 13-Oct. 5.

Assistance for eligible individuals and families may include:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes were made unlivable by the disaster.
- 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.
- Low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

There are only two ways to register for assistance. Call FEMA toll free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 or go online to www.fema.gov. Registration with any other agency does not register an individual or household for federal assistance.

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FEMA coordinates the federal government’s role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

SBA is the federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 800-659-2955 or go online at www.sba.gov.
Temporary housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) does not require that an applicant file for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for additional assistance under the part of the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. There are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses that do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible. FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan and eligibility determinations for applicants requesting FEMA’s temporary housing assistance will not be held up because the applicant has or has not filled out an SBA application.

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For more information, visit www.fema.gov or www.iema.illinois.gov.