

Information for Evacuees

Last updated by Indiana 211 Partnership, Inc., **Wednesday, September 07, 2005, 1pm**

The resources listed in this document are specific to Hurricane Katrina EVACUEES who are temporarily in or relocating to Indiana. For additional or more updated information, Hoosiers may dial 2-1-1 in 39 Indiana counties where available, or 1-800-259-6370 for Indiana residents where 2-1-1 is not available. For counties without 2-1-1 service, the toll-free number will route to the Indianapolis-based 2-1-1 Center, Information & Referral Network.

The hurricane-related information is changing minute by minute, so please check back for updates to this document at www.in211.org. If anything on this sheet is incorrect, or you have additions, please contact: lolive@in211.org

FEMA – Evacuees must register with FEMA!

800-621-3362, TTY 800-462-7585, www.fema.gov

All evacuees are encouraged to register with FEMA as soon as possible to apply for financial assistance. Either call FEMA or apply online at

<https://disasteraid.fema.gov/IAC/displayPage.do?forward=home&> Note that the 800 number is difficult to reach and the online application form requires multiple interactions.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Call 2-1-1 or 1-800-259-6370 to learn about information referenced in this document or for referrals to local services.

SHELTER/HOUSING

Evacuee Reception Center for Services and/or Shelter

The American Red Cross is the lead agency providing mass shelter for evacuees. Salvation Army is sheltering evacuees in cooperation with the Red Cross. Hope International Ministries is available to assist with mass sheltering if needed, and is working on transitional and longer-term housing. While many individuals and families have offered to shelter evacuees in private homes, this is discouraged and will only be used in a last resort situation.

Mass Shelter services:

Provides meals, access to services, medication dispensing, employment information, information about enrolling children in school or child care, and other services. Evacuees will be screened and may be given vouchers for clothing or gift cards for personal care items.

Current shelter facilities are available at Indiana State Fairgrounds – run by the American Red Cross, www.redcross-indy.org, and other locations Salvation Army, <http://www.salvationarmyindiana.org/katrina.html>

Other Evacuee Housing Information

- The American Red Cross and Salvation Army are working with other local housing programs to find transitional housing after evacuees have been stabilized in mass shelter.
- Evacuees are encouraged to use caution in signing leases if unsure whether they will continue to reside in Indiana. IN211 and relief organizations are NOT encouraging nor arranging evacuee placement in private homes. Private home and available housing information may be collected by IN211 Centers or other organizations as alternatives.
- The 2-1-1 Center or sheltering facility should be able to identify community-based programs to assist with rent deposits, rent, utility deposits, donated household items, and more.

LOCATING OR FINDING LOVED ONES

American Red Cross (national office) - 1-877-LOVED1S or register at www.redcross.org (click on link to <http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/katrina>)

Salvation Army - Go to www.salvationarmyusa.org, see "Saturn" on opening screen. Fill out short form, and Sal Army broadcasts message to network of radio operators. (1-800- 725-2769)

National Next Of Kin Registry (NOKR) - <http://nokr.org/nok/restricted/home.htm>

APPLYING FOR SERVICES IN INDIANA

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Evacuees who already receive SSI and SSDI should contact the Social Security Administration directly at (800) 772-1213.

Evacuees Enrolling in Indiana Schools and Child Care Facilities

Students from LA, MS, and AL can temporarily transfer to Indiana public and private schools. Normal immunization and residency requirements will be waived. Evacuated children are considered homeless and are entitled to enroll in the school district where they temporarily reside, and they qualify for free lunches and school supplies. Children that enroll before September 28 will be included in the ADM count for the school district. Children have 30 days from registration to supply immunization and other documentation. Call 2-1-1 or 1-800-259-6370 if a school denies access for information about registering a complaint at the IN Dept of Education.

IN211 has received confirmation that the same kind of waivers of residency and immunization requirements will apply to child care facilities.

Food Stamps and Medicaid/CHIP – Tell DFR office to record applicant as evacuee! **IN Family and Social Services/Division of Family Resources Offices**

The Division of Family Resources (formerly called the Office of Family and Children) administers Food Stamps, Medicaid/CHIP, TANF and many other assistance programs. For a list of office locations, dial 2-1-1, (or 1-800-259-6370 in Indiana counties where 2-1-1 is not available) or visit <http://www.in.gov/fssa/children/dfc/directory/index.html>

Food Stamps

Evacuees may apply for expedited food stamps at any DFR office in Indiana. Evacuees will be expedited, regardless of previous receipt of benefits in another state; eligibility factors will be more lenient, since evacuees may not have proper documentation. If they don't have their food stamp card, they need to go to a local office of Division of Family Resources to get a replacement or to apply.

Medicaid/CHIP - Tell DFR office to record applicant as evacuee!

Evacuees with Medicaid/CHIP from LA, MS, and AL may visit medical facilities and pharmacy chains in Indiana. Medicaid/CHIP recipients should bring their Medicaid/CHIP ID if they have it to speed service. If they do not have their ID, they may apply at the local Division of Family Resources. Evacuees not already receiving Medicaid/CHIP from LA, MS or AL may apply at any Division of Family Resource. Evacuees with immediate health care needs in the Central Indiana area should go to Wishard directly.

TANF - Tell DFR office to record applicant as evacuee!

Evacuees may apply for TANF at any DFR office in Indiana. Evacuees will be expedited, regardless of previous receipt of benefits in another state; eligibility factors will be more lenient, since evacuees may not have proper documentation. TANF, or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, provides a monthly assistance payment to caretakers of dependent children younger than 18 who are deprived of parental support and care.

WIC Services – Tell WIC office to record applicant as evacuee!

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for children, ages 0-5, and pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum teens and women. Services include grocery store vouchers for food and formula, immunizations for children, nutritional education, breastfeeding education and support, and referrals to other health services.

Evacuees will be expedited, regardless of previous receipt of benefits in another state, and infants will not be required to be weighed to determine nutrition need. Eligibility factors will be more lenient, since evacuees may not have proper documentation, but families still need to meet basic WIC requirements (children, ages 0-5, and pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum teens and women). Parents, step-parents, guardians, and foster parents can apply for their children. Evacuees who received WIC in LA and AL can use their WIC checks at any Indiana stores during the month of September. Evacuees who received WIC in AL, LA and MS need to apply directly at any WIC office. To locate WIC offices in Indiana, dial 2-1-1, (or 1-800-259-6370 in Indiana counties where 2-1-1 is not available).

Unemployment Insurance – Tell the WorkOne Center to record applicant as evacuee!

Department of Workforce Development – Work One Centers

Evacuees who were receiving unemployment insurance from AL, LA or MS may continue to receive benefits from that state until they establish residency in another state. Evacuees and other individuals who are now unemployed because of the disaster may apply for “disaster unemployment” assistance, which is expected to include the usual 26 weeks of assistance. Residency and documentation requirements will be waived; evacuees will need to sign an affidavit stating that they are Hurricane Katrina evacuees. For the location of the nearest WorkOne Center, call 2-1-1 (or 1-800-259-6370 in Indiana counties where 2-1-1 is not available), or visit http://www.in.gov/dwd/job_seekers/job_seekers_workforce_centers_regional_map.html.

Emergency Food, Clothing and all other needs

Food pantry and clothing bank assistance are available in most communities.

Call 2-1-1 (or 1-800-259-6370 in Indiana counties where 2-1-1 is not available) for more information and referrals to local services.