



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
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Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

Amy M. Jacobs
COMMISSIONER

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Dear Georgia Child Care Provider:

I am writing to inform you that the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that survivors in seven Georgia counties affected by Hurricane Matthew can now register with FEMA for disaster assistance through the **Individual Assistance Program**. The affected counties include Bryan, Bulloch, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, McIntosh and Wayne.

Survivors who sustained damage or losses caused by Hurricane Matthew in those counties can apply for assistance by calling FEMA's helpline at 800-621-3362 for voice, 711 or video relay service (VRS). Survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have difficulty speaking and use a TTY, should call 800-462-7585. The lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time until further notice. Online registration is available at DisasterAssistance.gov.

FEMA Individual Assistance is designed to help survivors with immediate essential needs and to help displaced survivors find a safe, sanitary, and functional place to live temporarily until they can return home. GEMHSA and FEMA work closely with state, federal, community- and faith-based, and voluntary agency partners to help match survivors who have remaining needs with other sources of assistance.

Georgia residents in the seven designated counties should register with FEMA even if they have insurance, but only if their property was damaged by Hurricane Matthew. FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but under-insured applicants may receive help after their insurance claims have been settled.

Registering with FEMA is required for federal aid, even if the person has registered with their local emergency management agency or another disaster-relief organization such as American Red Cross. Federal disaster aid does not affect other government benefits, such as Social Security and Medicaid, and is not considered taxable income. Only one person per household is eligible to register. To be eligible for Individual Assistance, the damaged home must be the primary residence of the applicant.

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration may also be available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Additionally, Kaplan has offered child care facilities a 20% discount and free UPS shipping on orders of \$300+ for child care sites affected by Hurricane Matthew along the Georgia coast. The offer is valid through 12/31/16. The code to use when ordering is PR-27844. Kaplan will consider extending this code if needed for providers to replenish supplies and equipment. The Kaplan representative covering the affected counties is Pam Bradley, 1-800-334-2014, ext. 5440 or pbradley@kaplanco.com.

If you have further questions related to your facility, contact your licensing consultant or our general intake line at 404-657-5562. You, your staff, and the families you serve are in our thoughts as you continue to recover from the storm.

Best regards,

Kristie Lewis

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services