

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

SHELTER AT HOME PROGRAM

More information on FEMA Transitional Housing Assistance can be found at:

<http://gov.louisiana.gov/page/shelter-at-home-program>

In this program, FEMA will pay for very basic repairs so a homeowner and family can shelter safely in their own home while rebuilding

WHAT IS THE SHELTER AT HOME PROGRAM?

The Shelter at Home Program will enable eligible individuals or families whose homes were damaged in the August flooding to take shelter in their own homes while they rebuild, instead of having to stay in a hotel, rental or mass shelter.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The program evaluates each applicant's home and, if up to \$15,000 of work in that home can create a safe, secure, habitable place for the family to live while they continue their permanent home rebuilding, then that applicant may be eligible for this program. Very basic initial work will include items such as mucking out the house, basic electrical restoration, installing a basic water heater, removing wet wall insulation, and providing up to \$500 in basic cooking or refrigerating appliances. This work will be provided at no out-of-pocket cost to the eligible homeowner. This assistance is independent of and will not affect determination of any Individual Assistance grant from FEMA. These essential emergency cleanup and minor repairs will help families get a jump-start on their full recovery and live in at least a portion of their home, while they continue to finish the big task of making permanent repairs to their home.

WHAT KIND OF PROPERTY IS ELIGIBLE?

Single-family owner-occupied properties are eligible if up to \$15,000 in repairs provided by the Shelter at Home program will allow residents to quickly and safely shelter in their own home. Only properties that meet these criteria are eligible to participate in the program. Likewise, to be eligible, flood waters cannot have exceeded 24 inches above the floor of the main living area of the home; however, the program does specify that floodwater amounts higher than that may be inspected and approved on a case-by-case basis.

WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Many families are desperately ready to get back into their homes, but their residences are not environmentally safe or habitable yet. If you want to get back to your home as quickly as possible and would rather stay there than a shelter, rental apartment or hotel room, this program may be for you.

NOTE: *You do not have to be registered with FEMA in order to take advantage of this program. All people interested in this program must apply individually (separately from registering with FEMA or SBA or filing a flood insurance claim with NFIP). Applications should be made to website or phone number that the state will announce shortly for this program. The phone number and website will be operational and announced publicly beginning on Monday, August 29, 2016.*



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SHELTER AT HOME PROGRAM CONTINUED

WHAT TYPES OF INTERIOR REPAIRS ARE COVERED IN THE PROGRAM?

Shelter at Home teams will complete tasks such as:

- Inspection and testing of electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems to ensure they are in safe working order
- Removing drywall, insulation and other water-absorbing wall coverings (excluding fire-rated walls) damaged by flooding
- Removing flood-damaged water-absorbing flooring material including carpet, carpet padding, and other materials
- Removing debris to the street right-of-way
- Cleaning and sanitizing exposed floor and wall surfaces where flooring or wall coverings were removed
- Ensuring there is one (1) temporary working bathroom in the home, which could include cleaning or fixing a bathtub/shower, toilet and sink
- Maintaining heating and minimum air conditioning for comfort
- Repairing or replacing damaged water heaters
- Inspecting and repairing natural gas lines if necessary
- Testing and repairing or replacing/installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Providing mini-refrigerators and microwaves as necessary (The total appliance allowance will be \$500 where needed.)

WHAT TYPES OF EXTERIOR REPAIRS ARE COVERED IN THE PROGRAM?

Shelter at Home teams will complete tasks such as:

- Taking temporary actions to weatherproof the home and prevent water intrusion; repairs could be temporary patches
- Patching (minor and quick repairs), door hardware replacement, and replacement/repair of door jambs and headers as necessary for secure entry and exit
- Securing broken windows with minor carpentry or hardware repairs
- Repairing damaged front stairs or porches to allow safe entrance and exit
- Ensuring that plumbing is connected to a sanitary sewer or approved sewerage disposal system
- Ensuring that potable water is available and operational

WHERE CAN I APPLY OR FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM?

The state of Louisiana will publicize the website and phone number for this program on or before

Monday, August 29, 2016.

