



FEMA

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News Release

Priority Service for First Responders, Educators at Disaster Recovery Centers

TALLAHASSEE – First responders and educators – police officers, firemen, medical personnel, teachers and others supporting response to Hurricane Ian – will be given priority service at several Disaster Recovery Centers Oct. 15 and 16.

The service will be offered on those dates from 9 a.m. to noon at the centers in Charlotte, Hardee, Lee and Sarasota counties. By showing their official identification, they will not have to wait in line to talk with center staff about their own applications for help. While first responders and teachers will move to the head of the line on those days, other survivors are welcome to visit the centers whenever they can. Here are the locations:

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Home Depot, 12621 S McCall Rd, Port Charlotte, FL 33981

HARDEE COUNTY

Wauchula Civic Center, 515 Civic Center Dr., Wauchula, FL 33873

LEE COUNTY

Lakes Regional Library, 15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

LEE COUNTY

Fort Myers DMS Building, 2295 Victoria Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901

SARASOTA COUNTY

Shannon Staub Public Library, 4675 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289

To apply for FEMA disaster assistance, go online to DisasterAssistance.gov, use the [FEMA app](#) for smartphones or call 800-621-3362 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time, seven days a week. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service.

To view an accessible video about how to apply visit: [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, you can call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.