



FEMA

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FEMA News Desk: (866) 366-8807

fema-pr4339prensa@fema.dhs.gov

News Release

Transitional Sheltering Assistance Available to Residents of Puerto Rico Displaced by Hurricanes Irma and Maria

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – FEMA and the government of Puerto Rico announced today that Transitional Sheltering Assistance is available to Puerto Ricans who are unable to return to their homes because they are displaced as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. This is one of several short-term housing options being offered to meet the demand for post-storm safe housing. Transitional Sheltering Assistance allows eligible applicants to shelter in a hotel or motel, for a limited period of time, as a bridge to intermediate and longer-term housing. FEMA pays all costs for rooms and taxes through direct payments to participating hotels and motels.

For eligible applicants currently on Puerto Rico:

- Consistent with the Governor's request, FEMA will prioritize placements for the people who are currently residing in emergency shelters in order to target those most in need.
- FEMA will be providing transportation to select locations in the Continental United States, where you will be connected with support services and lodging. FEMA will not provide any additional transportation within the Continental United States and cannot provide reimbursement for travel arrangements you may have already made.
- Transportation also will be provided for your return back to Puerto Rico.
- Applicants should expect that it may take several weeks to arrange transportation, given the limited availability of commercial flights.

For eligible applicants currently in the Continental United States:

- Make sure you update FEMA with current information by contacting us.
- You may stay at any participating hotel.
- FEMA will not reimburse for travel that already occurred, or travel to a participating hotel within the Continental United States.
- Applicants should expect that it may take approximately one week before hotels have the information necessary for you to check in.
- Applicants are responsible for identifying a participating hotel and checking for availability.

To be considered for these programs, a disaster survivor must be registered with FEMA for disaster assistance online at disasterassistance.gov, via the FEMA App, or by calling 1-800-621-3362 (voice, 711/VRS-Video Relay Service).

To find a participating hotel, visit <http://www.femaevachotels.com/index.php>.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at **800-621-3362** (voice, **711/VRS** - Video Relay Service) (TTY: **800-462-7585**). Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).*

The SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters, which can cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged real estate and personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

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