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Escambia County Receives FEMA Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance

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Escambia County has received a FEMA Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. This declaration will allow those who have been impacted by Hurricane Sally to apply for the Individuals and Households Program. With this announcement, families impacted by Hurricane Sally now have access to critical FEMA programs, including housing assistance, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance, Small Business Administration (SBA) assistance, disaster legal services and case management.

"We are absolutely thrilled FEMA individual assistance will be available for Escambia County residents," said Chairman and District 5 County Commissioner Steven Barry. "This gives our residents who are hurting the opportunity to apply for much needed assistance after Hurricane Sally devastated so many homes in Escambia County. I hope this assistance provides some degree of stress relief for those who are in need. On behalf of the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to thank President Trump and Representative Matt Gaetz as well as every single federal and state partner for working together with us and for advocating on our behalf on the national level to help our community recover post Hurricane Sally."

When a disaster occurs, this program provides grant money and services to people in the declared area whose property has been damaged or destroyed and whose losses are underinsured or not covered by insurance. To file a claim for assistance, you must first register with FEMA in one of the following ways:

- Call 1-800-621-3362 (TTY# 1-800-462-7585) Multilingual operators are available. The toll-free numbers are open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET.
- Register online at www.disasterassistance.gov, enter your location and click on "Apply Online"
- Download the FEMA app on your mobile device and register using the app.

Typically potential applicants can begin registering within a few hours after a declaration is issued. **FEMA will verify eligibility and need before assistance is offered.**

Details on what is covered by Individual Assistance can be found here. It is important to understand that by law, FEMA assistance cannot duplicate the assistance you receive from your insurance company, but you may receive assistance for items not covered by insurance.

FEMA does not offer assistance for your secondary home. Federal guidelines only allow FEMA to provide housing assistance when your primary residence is impacted by a presidentially-declared disaster.

If you received a letter from FEMA that says you're ineligible for assistance, that's not the last word. Providing more information may change FEMA's decision. **Read quick facts about why FEMA may have found you ineligible here.**

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Individual Assistance for Five Counties Impacted by Hurricane Sally

For more information on Hurricane Sally and available resources, visit <https://www.floridadisaster.org/info>.

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