

# Seeking Disaster Assistance

Throughout the recovery period, it is important to monitor local radio or television reports and other media sources for information about where to get emergency housing, food, first aid, clothing, and financial assistance. The following section provides general information about the kinds of assistance that may be available.

## Direct Assistance

Direct assistance to individuals and families may come from any number of organizations, including:

- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Other local, regional, national volunteer organizations

These organizations provide food, shelter and supplies and assist in clean-up efforts.

## The Federal Role

In the most severe disasters, the federal government is also called in to help individuals and families with temporary housing, counseling (for post-disaster trauma), low-interest loans and grants, and other assistance. The federal government also has programs that help small businesses and farmers.

Most federal assistance becomes available when the President of the United States declares a “Major Disaster” for the affected area at the request of a state governor. FEMA will provide information through the media and community outreach about federal assistance and how to apply. Click [HERE](#) for more information.