



Issue No. 5 January 23, 2006

**In this Issue:**

- New Orleans Hispanic Apostolate and Catholic Charities Host Information Session for Louisiana Immigrant Workers
- New Orleans ICE Announces Telephonic Reporting Program
- Louisiana Residents Can Apply for FEMA and State Hurricane Aid Until March 11th
- Beware of Fraud in Applying for Hurricane Assistance
- FEMA/HUD Housing Program Deadline Extended
- Helpful Website for Hurricane Legal Assistance

**[New Orleans Hispanic Apostolate and Catholic Charities Host Informational Session for Louisiana Immigrant Workers](#)**

On Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 5 – 7 p.m. there will be a free outreach meeting (in Spanish) for workers doing clean-up and reconstruction post Hurricane Katrina. Information will be provided regarding what workers can do if they have not been paid or if they are working under dangerous or unhealthy conditions. The meeting will be at San Jeronimo Catholic Church in Kenner, LA, (located at 2400 33rd. St., Kenner, LA, 70065) just outside of New Orleans.

The meeting is limited to the first 50 persons who register by telephone at (504) 464-5478 x223 (ask for Eva). The outreach program was made possible through the efforts of New Orleans Hispanic Apostolate/Catholic Charities, the University of Loyola Law Clinic, and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

**[New Orleans ICE Announces Telephonic Reporting Program](#)**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has reopened its New Orleans office. On January 10th, ICE issued two notices informing legal representatives and persons with ICE reporting requirements that ICE would expand its telephonic voice reporting program to include aliens released on orders of recognizance, supervision, or parole. In order to enroll, all persons with reporting requirements must call ICE at (504) 310-8823 or (504) 310-8882 to obtain an appointment. ICE will only consider enrollments until February 28, 2006, so it is important to call now for an appointment. Those who are enrolled in the telephonic reporting program will no longer be required to appear in-person for one year, unless they are sent an official notice to report in person. Visit <http://cliniclegal.org/Katrina/shtml> to access the full notice. CLINIC is interested in speaking with legal representatives or individuals who encounter any difficulties in enrolling or participating in the telephonic reporting program. Contact Molly McKenna at [mmckenna@cliniclegal.org](mailto:mmckenna@cliniclegal.org) or (202) 635-2567.

**Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.**  
**Update: Immigrant Rights Post-Katrina**  
**Issue No. 5 January 23, 2006**

**FEMA/HUD Housing Program Deadline Extended**

Displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina who still need permanent, long-term housing have more time to sign up for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) housing program. The previous deadline of December 31, 2005 was extended to March 11, 2006.

The program, called the Katrina Disaster Housing Assistance Program (KDHAP), is funded by FEMA. It permits displaced Katrina victims to re-settle anywhere they choose in the United States or to return to their home state as housing is repaired and rebuilt.

Housing assistance under this program is available to families who fall into one of three categories: those who received rental assistance under the Section 8 voucher program, those who lived in public housing or other HUD-assisted property, or those who were homeless before the disaster.

KDHAP provides up to 18 months of rental assistance beginning from the date of the official disaster declaration on August 29, 2005. Individuals and families who think they are eligible must first register with FEMA by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 800-462-7585. The amount of rental assistance given by KDHAP is up to 100 percent of the fair market rental rates for the area indicated.

Property owners and landlords are encouraged to support the program by making their vacant units available to these families. Units can be listed with the local housing authority. To register with the KDHAP program, contact their Referral Call Center at 866-373-9509 or visit [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=22300>

**Louisiana Residents Can Apply for FEMA and State Hurricane Aid Until March 11th**

FEMA officials are urging residents from disaster designated parishes in Louisiana to use the 60 day extension FEMA has granted to register for federal and state financial assistance. Assistance is available to cover both uninsured losses and underinsured losses. Those with insurance should register for assistance if coverage has not been confirmed, as certain losses may not be covered. Registrants may have remained in Louisiana or evacuated to other parts of the country.

FEMA has an online assistance center at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) where individuals can register for assistance and check on the status of their applications. To date, FEMA has received more than 1.3 million applications from Louisiana residents. For those wishing to apply by phone, the toll-free number is 800-621-FEMA (3362). Speech or hearing-impaired applicants can call the TTY number 800-462-7585. The lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and multilingual operators are available to take calls.

**Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.**  
**Update: Immigrant Rights Post-Katrina**  
**Issue No. 5 January 23, 2006**

Callers will need to supply the following information:

- \* Current phone number
- \* Address at the time of the disaster and current address if different
- \* Social Security number
- \* A general list of damages and losses suffered
- \* Directions to the damaged property
- \* Insurance policy number or company and agent's name, if insured
- \* General financial information

Once registered, an applicant may be eligible for temporary housing assistance -- such as financial aid for rent or emergency repair grants of up to \$5,200 for homeowners with uninsured or underinsured disaster-related damages to their primary residence -- as well as other disaster-related expenses not met through insurance or other programs.

Officials also emphasized that individuals seeking assistance from FEMA do not need to complete a loan application from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in order to be considered for temporary housing assistance. FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan.

An applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for additional assistance under the part of the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. Even so, applicants who do not meet a certain income threshold may be excused from this requirement. In addition, there are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses that do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible.

Officials stressed that disaster assistance is not considered income and is not taxable. Disaster grants do not have to be paid back. Disaster loans are available through the U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan program at low interest rates.

People who have registered and who need to update or provide additional information or who have questions about their application can call the same numbers and press the Help Line option.

For more information about the disaster recovery, go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) 12-30-05; [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=22199>

**Beware of Fraud in Applying for Hurricane Assistance**

The Small Business Association warns hurricane victims to beware of scam artists attempting to defraud people applying for hurricane aid. The federal government has set up a "Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline." Residents and business owners who have knowledge of fraud can call (866) 720-5721, send a fax to (703) 604-8567, or e-mail the hotline at [katrinafraud@dodig.mil](mailto:katrinafraud@dodig.mil). Those without internet access can write to: Hurricane Relief Hotline, Washington, D.C. 20301-1900.

Disaster survivors have reported receiving calls from individuals claiming to represent SBA, asking for upfront payments of as much as \$3,000 to be considered for a disaster loan. Others are

**Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.**  
**Update: Immigrant Rights Post-Katrina**  
**Issue No. 5 January 23, 2006**

using newspaper ads promising help with disaster loan applications for "a small processing fee" of up to \$250. In Mississippi, residents and business owners have reported seeing roadside signs advertising help with disaster loan applications for a fee.

The SBA does not charge fees for the processing of disaster loans. Individuals and business owners in the region affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita should continue to beware of possible scams and misrepresentations by those claiming to be SBA officials.

For free help with the disaster loan application, visit one of the Disaster Recovery Centers or SBA's Business Assistance Centers located in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Texas, or the Small Business Development Centers Visit [http://sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/disaster-office-locations.html](http://sba.gov/disaster_recov/disaster-office-locations.html) to find the office nearest you. Disaster loan applicants may also call SBA's customer service center at (800) 659-2955 for questions about the loan applications process. Operators are taking calls from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, daily. Questions can also be e-mailed to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

Homeowners, renters and businesses in the areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are encouraged to apply for federal assistance by registering online with FEMA, or by calling (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or (800) 462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

Source: [http://www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/fraud.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/fraud.html)

**Helpful Website for Hurricane Legal Assistance**

The Katrina Legal Aid Resource Center has established a helpful website for persons impacted by the hurricanes seeking legal assistance. The website is: [www.katrinalegalaid.org](http://www.katrinalegalaid.org)

The Katrina Legal Aid Resource Center provides information for hurricane victims to find a legal aid or pro bono lawyer; locate emergency and temporary housing; file insurance claims; and find other information about their legal rights.

The website also provides updates from affected legal services organizations across the country and includes information on a variety of topics, including child welfare; food program resources; FEMA services; health law; housing; immigration; state disaster manuals; insurance; and other issues.

Pro bono volunteers can use the website to find volunteer opportunities in Gulf Coast states as well as other areas across the country where hurricane victims are presently located. The site also provides information on training opportunities to prepare volunteers to assist persons affected by the disaster.

*To sign up to receive this electronic newsletter, contact Maura Collins at [mcollins@cliniclegal.org](mailto:mcollins@cliniclegal.org) or visit [clinic.kintera.org/katrina](http://clinic.kintera.org/katrina) to subscribe online.*