



**State Emergency
Response Team**



*Joint Information Center
Disaster Field Office
Orlando, Florida*

FEMA

Backgrounder

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FEMA AND SERT LAUNCH “DIRECT-TO-COUNTY” PROGRAM

- FEMA and SERT have launched a new, “Direct-to-County” program for providing disaster housing.
- When county administrators provide FEMA with a list of names and addresses of people who need immediate housing because of the hurricanes, FEMA and its partner agencies will haul and install a travel trailer to that site.
- This process speeds up FEMA’s normal disaster response, which includes calling all applicants who have indicated a need for housing and helping them find a safe, sanitary place to live. The size of these four disasters, and continued reports of people still without housing, prompted this unprecedented step.
- People may get the trailers even if they have not already registered with FEMA. They are encouraged to register as soon as possible.
- FEMA will do follow-up interviews to confirm registration, and determine eligibility for additional assistance.
- The total need is still uncertain. FEMA already has 1400 travel trailers on hand in Florida, and has orders in place to purchase more as the need develops.
- The goal is to haul, install and lease each unit, and have those who need housing occupying it, within 48 hours of getting a name and address from the county. Delays may occur because of individual situations at each site, such as debris and utilities.
- The units will still be owned by FEMA. If they cannot be placed on the individuals’ personal property, and instead are put on commercial lots or in a group site, then FEMA will pay for the site rental and utilities.
- People can get on the list for their counties by contacting their county officials.
- The “Direct-to-County” program is for all counties in Florida with no other resources, and for all people who need emergency housing.

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