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2-1-1 UPDATE

June 7, 2010

State Residents Eligible for Federal Disaster Assistance

An effort led by Governor M. Jodi Rell and the state's Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has caused the federal government to reverse a decision to deny aid to state residents affected by severe storms and flooding in March. Federal assistance is now available for impacted residents of Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, New London and Windham counties.

In April, after President Obama denied a request for federal aid to affected individuals the Governor immediately planned an appeal. DEMHS led the process of collecting property damage data for the appeal and enlisted the assistance of United Way 2-1-1, the statewide, toll-free information and referral service. At the request of DEMHS, 2-1-1 took calls from residents who experienced property damage during the storms. 2-1-1 also provided an online survey where damage could be reported.

In its initial application for federal aid, the state reported damage to 1,315 homes totaling close to \$5.3 million. During the two-week period immediately following the denial of federal aid, 2-1-1 received approximately 1,500 calls and 1,500 visits to its web-based survey from individuals who experienced property damage. Upon review of data collected with the aid of 2-1-1, DEMHS increased the number of damaged homes to 2,498 and increased the damage estimate to close to \$16.5 million. Twenty-four hours after Governor Rell filed the appeal with this updated data, the state was granted federal disaster assistance to residents in five counties.

Residents of declared counties impacted by the storms still need to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) even if they already called 2-1-1 to report their damage. Residents may apply for FEMA disaster assistance by calling 800-621-3361 or visiting www.disasterassistance.gov.

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