

KATRINA EVACUEES IN FLORIDA:
Do You Know About
EMERGENCY CASH ASSISTANCE?

Many Katrina evacuees can get money under a brand new program in Florida. The program is called the **Emergency Cash Assistance Program** -- "ECA" for short. How much money you get depends on how big your family is. A family of three will get \$1,212. This is on top of any FEMA money you got.

There are too many details about this program to list them all here. If you want to know whether this program is right for you, contact Florida's Department of Children and Families. In general, the requirements are:

- You must be in Florida for now. It's OK if you plan to go home.
- You have to have left a Katrina-affected county or parish in Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama. The reason you left has to be because of Katrina.
- You must have at least one child living with you or be expecting a child (and be at least six months pregnant). The child must be closely-related and under the age of 18 (or up to age 19 if the child is in high school full-time).

Eighteen-year-old children who were in high school before Katrina or who are enrolling in school in Florida now may automatically meet the student criteria.
- You have to have low income and assets.
- You must apply before August 1, 2006.
- You must meet citizenship rules. Also, you can't already be getting TANF in another state.
- If you get ECA, you can't get regular TANF (cash welfare) for four months. But ECA will not count against Florida's TANF time limit or against the income limits for getting Food Stamps or Medicaid.
- You will be asked to verify information to make sure you are eligible. If you don't have any verification, your word should usually be good enough.

You can apply on-line at <http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/> or apply in person at your local Florida's Department of Children and Families (DCF) DCF Customer Care Service Center. To get an application mailed, call 1-866-762-2237.

Contact your local legal services/aid office if you have any problems with ECA. They may be able to help. They may also be able to tell you more about ECA.