

BROWARD COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER AND EVACUATION TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Special Needs Shelter and Evacuation Transportation Assistance Program offers transportation and shelter for residents that do not have a safe place to be during dangerous weather or other emergencies, or do not have a way to get to the shelter. **Residents of any residential facility (e.g., Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, etc.) do not qualify for this program, because these business entities must have their own emergency evacuation plans in place for their clients.** If possible, arrange to evacuate with family, friends, or lodging out of harm's way for your "Plan A". A shelter should be your "Plan B".

Please understand that a shelter is a place of refuge of last resort from dangerous weather or other emergencies. While basic services such as food, electricity, and medical supervision will be provided at the shelters, clients and caregivers must provide supplemental food and all medications for three (3) to five (5) days.

General Population Shelters are located in buildings with large open areas, such as schools, and are a good fit for anyone who is self-sufficient and needs no outside assistance in performing activities of daily living. You will be provided floor space only, so you must bring everything you need to shelter, such as a bedroll, lawn chair, pillow, blanket, clothes, etc. Food and water will be provided but it would be wise to bring some of your own, as well. Shelters will be crowded, and with a large storm, may fill up quickly.

Special Needs Shelters are located in schools, as well, and are for individuals whose medical conditions cannot be managed in a General Population Shelter. Electricity is provided for medical equipment. You must have an adult companion/caregiver accompany and assist you during sheltering. You must bring your medical equipment, medicines, personal items, money, etc. Your adult companion/caregiver must bring the same things, plus something to sleep on, such as a cot or lawn chair. We plan to have cots for those registered, but in a catastrophic storm our supplies will run out, so bring the things you cannot do without. Your service animal may shelter with you; however you must bring a crate/carrier, leash & collar, food, clean-up supplies, vaccination record, and any other comfort items your service animal will need.

Higher Level of Care shelter spaces in medical management facilities (e.g., hospitals) are assigned to people whose health conditions are unmanageable in a Special Needs Shelter. Sheltering will be in hallways, meeting rooms, or other large congregate spaces, and no medical attention will be provided. **You MUST have an adult companion/caregiver shelter with you the entire time.** You must bring your medical equipment, medicines, personal items, money, food (food is available for purchase), etc. Your caregiver will need to bring the same items, plus something to sleep on. You may NOT bring your pets or emotional support animals to shelter at the hospital (**ONLY Service Animals**).

Transportation to shelters can be pre-arranged by completing an application.

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Please note that all Broward County residents are expected to make their own plans to evacuate with their families and pets. It is important that everyone be responsible for their own safety and make a plan that includes where to go, who to contact, what to bring, and how to get there. However, the County realizes that some individuals may need assistance. Individuals meeting one of the following categories are eligible for assistance from the County:

- Those who require specialized transportation and/or have no transportation; or
- Those whose medical needs prevent them from evacuating on their own.

Please note that upon processing your application, a representative from the Broward County Office of Emergency Management and/or Department of Health (DOH) – Broward will contact you if further clarification is necessary.

What You Should Know to be Evacuation Ready

- **DO NOT** wait until an evacuation order is given to request being added to the registry.
 - *Resources are limited and pre-registered clients will have priority when an emergency arises.*
 - Special Needs Shelters do not offer the same level of care equipment available at health care facilities.
 - You must have a companion/caregiver accompany and assist you during sheltering.
 - You must bring your medical equipment, medicines, personal items, money, etc.
 - If you have a special diet, bring those dietary items with you to ensure the highest level of comfort.
 - If more than one person in your household requires medical assistance during evacuations, each person must complete a separate application. Special instructions will be mailed to you once your application has been approved.
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Should you have any questions, please call the Broward County Special Needs Registry at 954-831-3902.