

After initially denying Gov. Rell's request, The Federal Government approved individual assistance aid on Friday afternoon. Grant money will ONLY cover damage to primary living spaces (bedrooms) or making the home "habitable" with basic needs i.e. hot water, heat, septic, well or electric.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) will provide low interest, long term loans to cover personal property, rec rooms, and living spaces other than bedrooms. Please note that SBA loans are income dependent.

Process:

1. Individuals need to register for aid by calling FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or on line at www.disasterassistance.gov. Even if you have already given information for data gathering purposes to the 211 number or registered a flood insurance claim, you still need to register with FEMA.
2. Once registered, you will get a call from an inspector. He will have a picture ID and a FEMA pad. He doesn't need to see the actual damage; He can make the assessment based on watermarks, replacements, etc.
3. Once a determination is made, you will receive a check either electronically or by mail.
4. You have a right to appeal, should you not like the determination.

Tips:

1. You may be asked "is there damage" as opposed to "was their damage". If you have already make repairs, make sure you let them know that there was damage.
2. Each case will be treated on an individual basis.
3. Appliances in the basement, such as washers and dryers, are covered under the SBA loan program, not by a FEMA grant.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) will open within 36 hours to provide customer service. Fairfield County's Center will be located at Norwalk Community College. You cannot register at that location, you must call or go on line. Hours of operation are M-F 9 am-7pm and Sat 9 am-4 pm.

As of this morning, FEMA has 234 registrations around the state. 64 homes have been inspected with \$100,000 approved.