



FDDC Communications Office

News Release

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Volunteer Florida and Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Release Disaster Guide for Floridians with Disabilities

Tallahassee, FL - In less than a month, hurricane season will be here. Already, Floridians are being put on alert and urged to develop emergency plans in case a hurricane or other natural disaster strikes Florida.

To help Floridians with disabilities develop a disaster plan, Volunteer Florida and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) created “Disaster Ready – Emergency Preparedness Guide for Floridians with Disabilities.” While this guide can help anyone prepare for a disaster, it includes specific information to assist individuals with developmental disabilities prepare for a disaster. This guide is intended for individuals with disabilities who live on their own or with family or friends, not those who live in other types of residential placements.

“Disaster Ready” has two parts. The Florida guide section provides information about emergency management, disaster supply kits, evacuation, communication, personal support networks and more. The second part of the guide is a blank “Personal Disaster Plan.” This plan leads the reader through the process of preparing for and responding to a disaster. Individuals can use the information provided in the Florida Guide section to create their own personal disaster plans. For additional copies of the guide contact the FDDC at 1-800-580-7801, TDD Toll Free at 888-488-8633, or go to the FDDC website at www.fddc.org and order copies on line.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is a non-profit organization funded through federal assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Council accomplishes its mission by supporting innovative initiatives that demonstrate new approaches to enhance the independence, productivity, inclusion and self-determination of individuals with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

The Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youths to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism in emergency management and preparedness; supports the Governor’s priority initiatives through the creation of innovative volunteer programs; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

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