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Flood help centers set to close May 6

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Pa. counties get additional assistance.

From staff reports

State and federal officials urge residents affected by the April flood to apply for help before recovery centers close on May 6.

Disaster recovery centers in Northampton, Bucks and Monroe counties are open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. They are closed Sundays.

More than 500 people have visited the centers, which provide information about agricultural services, homeowner's insurance, health and welfare assistance, well-water testing, crisis counseling and senior citizen services, according to a statement released Friday.

Nine Pennsylvania counties received more than \$2.6 million in disaster assistance, according to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Almost 2,000 people registered for assistance, and another 700 sought information from Easton and Oxford Valley Home Depot stores about how to lessen future damage to their property in case of another flood.

In Northampton County, officials received 309 applications seeking more than \$350,000 in housing assistance and more than \$72,000 in other relief.

Specialists are at the home improvement stores from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Monday. They are available from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

Before visiting a disaster recovery center, victims should register for assistance by calling 800-621-FEMA, or 800-462-7585 for those who are hearing impaired. The FEMA registration line is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Online registration is available at fema.gov.

Also Friday, federal and state officials announced 11 Pennsylvania counties, including Northampton, Monroe and Bucks counties, have been designated for federal infrastructure assistance to help local governments and agencies affected by the April flooding.

The assistance will benefit state and local governments, authorities, volunteer fire companies, school districts and some nonprofits, according to PEMA Director Adrian R. King Jr.

The assistance includes aid for flood disaster response, recovery and prevention efforts.

The affected agencies and governments are eligible to apply for funds to pay for 75 percent of approved costs for debris removal, disaster-related emergency services, and repairs or replacement of damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and utilities.

The 11 designated counties are Bradford, Bucks, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming.

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