



PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

"Bringing Opportunities Home"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement from Pasco County Administrator Michele Baker

*~In response to FEMA denial of individual assistance for Pasco flood survivors~
(FEMA) Federal Emergency Management Agency*

"We received word today that FEMA has denied Governor Rick Scott's request for Individual Assistance (IA) for flood victims in Pasco County. This is one of the most significant programs for federal assistance," said Pasco County Administrator Michele Baker. "We are going to continue to work with the State and FEMA to obtain Small Business Administration assistance for "physical injury" and "economic injury" declarations. This could result in low interest loans for qualified residents and businesses to repair their property."

The State of Florida has awarded the County \$1.5 million in SHIP (State Housing Initiative Program) funds and they are looking at other programs which might be able to help our citizens. Our Human Services Division is working to get housing programs and other needed assistance to our citizens as quickly as possible.

Pasco County's Flood Recovery Center has provided assistance to 288 families. 221 people received hotel vouchers and many of those citizens continue to need support. Over 300 homes and 36 commercial properties were damaged. Many of the affected citizens are on fixed incomes and help for them is badly needed.

The United Way has received donations of \$60,000 so far to assist citizens with unmet needs. More donations are appreciated. Please contact the Resident Information Center at 727-847-2411 to donate.

"We respectfully request our federal and state partners to continue to look for ways to help the citizens of Pasco County," said Baker. "Pasco County continues to feel the effects of the July-August 2015 flood events and additional impacts are possible."

The most recent press release regarding flooding, click on this link:
<http://fl-pascocounty.civicplus.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3021>

Additional flood information can be found at this link:
<http://www.pascocountyfl.net/Index.aspx?NID=2272>

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