News October 13, 2024

**Expanded Disaster Recovery Center opening in Largo**

A Disaster Recovery Center will open with expanded services at 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at the Florida Botanical Gardens, Magnolia Room, 12520 Ulmerton Road Largo.

The DRC will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the new location.

DRCs serve as centralized locations where people can access various services and information related to disaster recovery, including:

* **Information and Guidance:** DRCs provide information on available disaster assistance programs and resources.
* **Application Assistance:** You can receive help with applying for federal disaster assistance programs, such as FEMA grants and low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration DRC staff can assist you in completing the necessary paperwork and explaining the application process.
* **Translation and Accessibility Services:** The DRC offers translation services for individuals with limited English proficiency. They also provide accommodations for people with disabilities to ensure equal access to assistance.
* **Status Updates**: If you have already applied for assistance, you can check the status of your application at a DRC.
* **Access to Disaster-related Resources:** The DRC will have numerous state agencies and social service organizations on site to help you get additional help, such as housing, legal services, and counseling.
* **Access to Computers and Phones:** The DRC offers computer access and phone services, allowing you to complete online applications.

In addition to FEMA, the following agencies will provide assistance at the DRC: Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida Department of Commerce, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Department of Insurance Regulation and Florida Department of Children and Families with Hope Florida Navigators.

When visiting a DRC, it’s a good idea to bring identification, proof of residence, insurance information, and any documentation related to your disaster-related losses to facilitate the application process and ensure you receive the appropriate assistance.

Residents can register for FEMA assistance online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/), via the FEMA app or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).