



NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Office of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CENTER FOR HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES TO CHANGE LOCATION

Effective Thursday, September 29, the City's Katrina Welcome Center for Hurricane Katrina evacuees will be located at 80 Centre St., at the corner of Worth and Centre Streets in lower Manhattan. The Welcome Center, which serves as the entry point to the City's Disaster Assistance Service Center (DASC), was formerly located at the City College of New York's Great Hall at 138 Street and Convent Avenue.

Evacuees seeking social services from the City should report to 80 Centre St. beginning Thursday to schedule an appointment at the DASC and fill out initial paperwork. The City encourages evacuees to bring as much documentation as possible to prove their identity and residency in the affected area.

The center will remain open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until evacuees' needs are met. However, both the **Welcome Center and the DASC will be closed October 8-10 in observance of Columbus Day weekend**. Both centers will reopen Tuesday, October 11, at 12 p.m.

On September 15, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno, in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Department of Homeless Services, and American Red Cross in Greater New York, opened a DASC to better serve Hurricane Katrina evacuees who have relocated to New York City. Relocating the Welcome Center and DASC to 80 Centre St. will serve to consolidate City resources for Katrina evacuees under one roof.

The DASC will remain at its current location in upper Manhattan until Sunday, October 2, when it will also move to 80 Centre St. Evacuees who have appointments to see case specialists for October 3 and beyond should report to 80 Centre St.

Staffed by representatives of several City, State and federal agencies and disaster relief organizations, the DASC addresses the needs of those displaced by last month's storm. On arrival at the DASC for their scheduled appointments, evacuees can expect to meet with staff from a host of government and voluntary agencies to discuss disaster housing, school enrollment, financial assistance for food, clothing and emergency expenses, and more. Since the DASC offers a wide array of resources, the City encourages evacuees to allow plenty of time for their visit.



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The City urges evacuees to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) before reporting to the Welcome Center. FEMA estimates it will take at least 20 minutes to complete the registration process via phone (800-621-FEMA; TTY: 800-462-7585) or internet (www.fema.gov).

Both the Welcome Center and the service center rely on volunteers for staffing. To volunteer, visit New York Cares' website at www.nycares.org or call 212-402-1171.

For more information about the City's efforts to support victims of Hurricane Katrina, call 311 or visit NYC.gov.

Contact: OEM Press Office 718-422-4888