



## Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP)

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I heard the disaster housing assistance program is ending — is this true?**

**A:** Yes. The federal government's disaster housing assistance program ends Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009.

**Q: Without housing assistance, I'll be evicted — what should I do?**

**A:** Please contact your local public housing agency to determine your eligibility for a HUD Housing Choice (Section 8) Voucher. For more information about vouchers, call the DHAP toll-free hot line at (866) 373-9509; or HUD at (800) 955-2232 or (866) 202-3487; or e-mail HUD at [pihirc@deval.us](mailto:pihirc@deval.us).

**Q: Will the federal government extend the DHAP program?**

**A:** The state is working with local and federal partners to secure an extension. Regardless of the status of the extension, you need to apply for the voucher program that HUD has made available. The Housing Choice Vouchers for eligible elderly, disabled and low-income individuals are permanent vouchers to help you secure permanent affordable housing.

**Q: I need immediate shelter — what should I do?**

**A:** Here are some options:

- Call 2-1-1 (United Way's nonprofit referral source) or 4-1-1 (directory assistance) and ask for your local United Way nonprofit agency.
- Go online at [www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/louisiana.html](http://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/louisiana.html) to search for a shelter.

**Q: I need help with food, clothing, health and mental health services — where can I turn?**

**A:** Here are some options:

- Call 2-1-1 (United Way's nonprofit referral source) or 4-1-1 (directory assistance) and ask for your local United Way nonprofit agency.
- Go online at [www.dss.state.la.us](http://www.dss.state.la.us) and click on "find services/resources."
- Call a local church, temple or synagogue and ask for assistance.
- Apply for food stamps and/or cash assistance by visiting your local Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support.

**Q: I don't need shelter right now, but will need rental housing in a few weeks — where do I start?**

**A:** Go online at [www.lahousingsearch.org](http://www.lahousingsearch.org). Enter your information, and you will receive a list of landlords in your area who offer housing to individuals with low-to-moderate incomes. Many of these landlords participate in the state's small rental and multi-family housing programs. In addition, you can visit FEMA's housing Web site at <https://asd.fema.gov/inter/hportal/home.htm>.

**Q: I don't have a computer — how can I go online?**

**A:** Local libraries provide free Internet service and librarians who can assist with computer use.

**Q: Is there an assistance program to help me buy my first home?**

**A:** To find out if you qualify for the first-time homebuyers program, call the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency at (225) 763-8700 or the Finance Authority of New Orleans at (504) 524-5533.

**Q: What about Louisiana Cottages — can I rent or purchase one?**

**A:** A small number of Louisiana Cottages will be made available for rent in the Greater New Orleans area; the remainder will be for sale in New Orleans, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge. Soon, a randomly selected group of the 42,000 individuals on FEMA's DHAP and Travel Trailer lists will receive a letter explaining eligibility requirements for Louisiana Cottages. The letter will provide a call center number.