



Other Needs Assistance Program (ONA)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

June 9, 2010

Federal Assistance to Individual and Households Program

- **The Federal Assistance to Individual and Households Program (IHP) is a grant to victims of a natural disaster to assist in replacing personal property or with medical, dental or funeral costs that occur as a result of the disaster**
- **It is comprised of Housing Assistance (HA) which is administered by FEMA and Other Needs Assistance (ONA) which is administered jointly by FEMA and HHSC**
 - **HA is 100% federally funded**
 - **ONA is 75% federal and 25% state funded**
- **The federal government sets the eligibility criteria and determines grant award amounts for the entire program**
- **The maximum grant for both HA and ONA combined is \$29,900**
- **This presentation will focus on the ONA portion of the program**

Other Needs Assistance (ONA) – Eligibility

Federally Determined Eligibility Requirements:

- The county where the individual lives, or was present at the time of the disaster, must be declared a major federal disaster area
- An individual must first apply for a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan even if they do not own a business. SBA provides disaster loans to individuals and businesses that are able to repay the loans.
 - If the individual's only expenses are disaster-related medical, dental or funeral bills, they do not have to apply for an SBA loan
- If an individual has home, health, flood or car insurance, they must file a claim with their insurance for their losses and keep records of the settlements
- An individual cannot get ONA if they refuse other assistance
- Must be a U.S. citizen. Certain qualified legal immigrants may also receive assistance.

Other Needs Assistance (ONA) – Eligibility

Who May Apply:

- Any head of a household in a declared disaster area
 - Household members who are not classified as dependents by the Internal Revenue Service must apply separately
- Both homeowners and renters may apply
- Persons visiting or passing through a disaster area who had damages when the disaster occurred

Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

What is Covered

- Only disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs, such as transportation, personal property, medical, dental, and funeral expenses
- Grant includes repair or replacement of furniture, clothing, some appliances and automobiles

What Is Not Covered

- Business losses, including farm businesses or vehicles and tools used for self-employment
- Outbuildings or improvements to property
- Landscaping
- Debts that existed before the disaster
- Anything that is a luxury or not essential

Other Needs Assistance (ONA) - Process

ONA Process:

- Disaster Victims apply through FEMA by phone or over the internet at www.fema.gov
 - Applications are accepted for 60 days after the date of the presidential disaster declaration, although a 30-day extension may be granted under certain circumstances
- A FEMA contracted inspector visits the applicant's residence to determine the damages and what an individual is eligible for as a result of the damages
- HHSC receives information from FEMA on which applicants may be paid and for which HHSC needs to verify additional information, i.e. receipts for purchases or verification of residence
- Payments are either mailed to the recipient or direct deposited by HHSC

Other Needs Assistance (ONA)- Hurricanes Rita, Dolly, and Ike

Hurricane Rita:

- Applications Received: 226,956
 - Applications Withdrew: 40,056
 - Applications Approved: 81,082
 - State Share (25%): N/A *
 - Grants Disbursed: \$93,745,137
- * 100 % Federally Funded

Hurricane Dolly:

- Applications Received: 21,033
- Applications Withdrew: 593
- Applications Approved: 5,753
- State Share (25%): \$1,416,473
- Grants Disbursed: \$5,665,892

Hurricane Ike:

- Applications Received: 360,766
- Applications Withdrew: 23,763
- Applications Approved: 67,516
- State Share (25%): \$31,248,416
- Grants Disbursed: \$124,993,664