

Institute for Disability Studies  
ShareCare Notes  
September 22, 2005

The following websites contain housing registries and/or housing resources for persons with disabilities and others in the affected Gulf Coast states.

The websites are as follows:

1. [www.hurricanehousing.net](http://www.hurricanehousing.net) - This web site is for those wishing to post available housing or rental property. This site also provides direction to the next three links listed below as well as the DHR search tool for finding housing. Please read #6 before searching.
2. [www.katrinadisability.info](http://www.katrinadisability.info) - This site includes information for persons with disabilities who need assistance (i.e accessible housing options) as well as for those that who want to provide assistance to persons with disabilities.
3. [www.katrinadisability.info/housing](http://www.katrinadisability.info/housing) - This site provides a national database of housing opportunities, including accessible housing, for persons with disabilities from persons who have opened their homes to Katrina evacuees. The descriptions for the Gulf States are rather long and more difficult to search than some of the other sites. Try typing "Mississippi" in the Site Search bar in order to quickly see what is listed for housing.
4. [www.katrina-la.net/housing](http://www.katrina-la.net/housing) - This site provides information for persons with disabilities and their families that have been effected by hurricane Katrina. It also provides a "Hurricane Housing," database of homes volunteered by individuals, categorized by zip code. Be sure to indicate how far from your zip code you are willing to locate as there are many options listed. Also, check "handicapped accessible" if that is your need.
5. [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) -"Basic Assistance" page provides housing resources for persons seeking shelter and/or housing. It also provides a list of numbers, in the disaster areas, for persons with disabilities to contact for assistance.
6. [www.DHRonline.org](http://www.DHRonline.org)- Provides immediately available rental properties-

housing resources that can provide disaster victims with safety and peace of mind while their home is repaired or a new home is constructed. For the broadest results, just enter a county and no other specifications in the search feature. As of this posting there were a few rentals in Forrest and Perry counties.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Sharecare note message of the day is below

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1. Contact for Locating Space in Long Term Care Facilities in Mississippi

If you are in need of a bed for your loved one in a facility, call 601-576-8225, the Miss. State Dept of Health. MSDH has a listing of open beds in their licensed facilities.

2. Social Security Information for People Affected by Hurricane Katrina

The Social Security Administration wants to ensure that monthly payments get to beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Katrina. Contrary to the rumor, there are no advance payments.

For paper checks

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has suspended mail service in some areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. USPS is establishing temporary mail delivery stations so you can pick up your Social Security check. To find these locations, check the USPS National Mail Service Update page.

To help prevent identity fraud, USPS will ask you for a photo ID.

If you are not able to go to a temporary mail delivery station, you can go to any open Social Security office and request an immediate payment.

For Direct Deposit

If you receive your Social Security payment by direct deposit, your Social Security payment is scheduled to be deposited to your account as usual. However, if you experience any difficulty getting your payment, you can go to any open Social Security office and request an immediate payment.

Closed Offices

- o Gulfport (Closed until Oct 1)

o Moss Point (Closed until Oct 1)

For more information on the nearest open Social Security office, you can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or you may go to the website for a list of temporary offices and other helpful links. <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency/>

## 2. Assistance with Energy Utilities and Weatherization

Pearl River Valley Opportunity (PRVO) is the point of contact for help with payment of utilities and home weatherization for low income individuals. Please call or contact PRVO, P.O. Box 188, 756 Hwy 98 By Pass, Columbia, MS 39429, (601) 736-9564, Fax (601) 736-6268 or E-mail [hjohnson@prvoinc.org](mailto:hjohnson@prvoinc.org) for eligibility in Covington, Forrest, Jefferson, Davis, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Jones, and Perry counties. It is our understanding that some counties may have additional monies as a result of the storm. If you have a need, applications may be made in the local county offices. Some offices have been relocated, so call ahead for the correct location. You are advised to bring proof of income, your social security card, a birth certificate for children under 6, and your electric or gas bill.

Please contact us at ShareCare should you need additional information. 888-671-0051. Stella Fair

Project ShareCare, funded by the Area Agency on Aging, provides training, counseling and support groups for family caregivers in Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Perry and Jones counties.

Project ShareCare is sponsored by the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS), Mississippi's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). IDS provides university training, community service activities, research, and information that promote the independence, productivity, and community inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families. For more information about IDS, visit the Institute's Web site at [www.ids.usm.edu](http://www.ids.usm.edu) or call 1-888-671-0051 (TTY). To make a tax-deductible gift to IDS for this and other projects, visit <http://www.ids.usm.edu/supportus.asp>.

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