

Sullivan, Orange and Ulster County Floods 06/06

Assistance Guide

Updated 07/21/06

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE GUIDE
Sullivan, Orange and Ulster County - Flood
June '06**

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Introduction

This guide is intended to help people locate assistance for unmet needs caused by the Sullivan County June '06 flooding. Originally compiled by the American Red Cross, 2-1-1 Hudson Valley is now responsible for continued updating and distribution. All suggestions, corrections, and information on how to make this resource a more thorough guide for both victims of disaster, and the helping organizations that serve them, are welcome and should be sent to 2-1-1 via panderso@uwwp.org.

Red Cross Assistance

The American Red Cross relief focuses on meeting the emergency disaster-caused needs of individuals and families: shelter, food, and health and mental health services. The Red Cross also lets people know about other available community or government resources that assist with the long term recovery. You can contact the Red Cross at 1-877-REDCROSS or rundled@arcgny.org

Programs for Financial Assistance

FEMA Assistance:

FEMA provides funding and assistance to individuals who have sustained loss of or damage to property that is not covered by insurance. Once you register with FEMA, an application guide will be mailed to you. Refer to this guide for more thorough information on FEMA's programs.

Temporary Housing – For disaster victims unable to occupy homes damaged by a disaster, funding is available to rent another place to live.

Repair – In order to make the damaged home safe, sanitary, and functional, homeowners are eligible to receive funding to repair damage caused by the disaster.

Replacement – When a home is destroyed by a disaster, homeowners are eligible to receive financial support to aid in the cost of replacing the home.

If you are unable to live in the apartment or house that you rent because of flood damage, your landlord may be obligated to return a pro-rated portion of rent that has already been paid.

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Funding is also available for replacement of personal property lost or damaged by flooding and for other needs generated as a result of a disaster. You may be eligible to receive funding for transportation, medical and dental expenses, funeral costs, personal property damage or loss, moving or storage, and other expenses approved by FEMA. You may contact FEMA (800-621-3362). Remember, disaster assistance covers a wide range of flood losses. Disaster-related damage or loss of personal property, anything from a wheelchair to a major appliance, may qualify for some form of federal/state assistance.

Disaster Loans (SBA)

Assistance is available from the SBA Disaster Loan program. SBA low-interest loans are available to renters, homeowners, business owners, and non-profit organizations that suffered losses due to this disaster. Homeowners may be eligible to borrow up to \$200,000 for real property. Renters and homeowners may borrow up to \$40,000 for replacement of disaster-damaged property. Businesses may apply for up to \$1.5 million for losses not fully covered by insurance. SBA loans are made for the repair or replacement of real or personal property. You may borrow up to 20 percent more to spend on measures that may help to prevent damage from happening again. The law authorizes loan terms up to a maximum of 30 years for homeowners and renters. For more information call 800-621-3362.

Housing Assistance (Other)

Assistance may also be available from the USDA for flood victims of very low, low, and moderate income in rural areas who are without decent, safe, and sanitary housing and who are unable to obtain a loan from private lenders on terms and conditions that they can be expected to meet. Residents in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Orange, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga and Ulster Counties may be eligible. Affected individuals should contact Rural Development in New York at (315) 477-6400 for information about loan and grant servicing options.

New York State Individual and Family Grant Program

Governor Pataki has created this program to provide assistance to those citizens who are victims of the flooding as well as the communities in which they live. The program is intended to work in tandem with the existing FEMA relief programs and to address gaps in coverage and eligibility that flood victims have experienced. Compensation (award, grant or insurance reimbursement) of up to \$5,000 per household or business or any loss suffered by an applicant as a result of the 06/06 floods. Deadline is Sept. 5, 2006. To apply, download an application from the NYS Department of Labor webpage, <http://www.labor.state.ny.us/>.

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Unemployment Assistance:

Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) may be available for individuals, including the self-employed, who are unemployed as a direct result of the damages caused by this storm. You may call 1-866-795-8877 and apply for DUA over the phone, or print an application from the state workforce agency website at:

<http://www.ncesc.com/individual/downloads/downloadMain.asp>

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Disaster Legal Services

FEMA provides free legal help for victims of disaster through an agreement with the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association. You can get legal advice on problems with your landlord, preparing legal papers lost in the disaster, help with home repair contracts and contractors, and other problems concerning your legal rights. Cases that may generate a fee (i.e., cases where attorneys are paid part of a settlement or court award) are turned over to the local lawyer referral service. For legal advice call 1-800-504-7030.

Food Stamps

In times of disaster it may become very difficult to obtain the resources needed to maintain a healthy and fulfilling diet for your family and yourself. You may be eligible for Food Stamps. Call the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for more information, 800-342-3009. Food Stamp eligibility is based on income guidelines:

People in Household	Gross Monthly Income	Net Monthly Income
1	\$973	\$749
2	\$1,313	\$1,010
3	\$1,654	\$1,272
4	\$1,994	\$1,534
5	\$2,334	\$1,795
6	\$2,674	\$2,057
7	\$3,014	\$2,319

Programs & Agencies Providing Recovery Services

Flood Insurance – Rebuilding

One of the most important things that you can do before a flood for the financial protection of your home and family is to purchase a flood insurance policy. You can obtain a flood insurance policy through your insurance company or agent. Flood insurance is guaranteed through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by FEMA. **YOUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER FLOOD DAMAGE.** It normally takes 30 days after purchase for a flood insurance policy to take effect. The average premium for federally backed flood insurance through NFIP is about \$400 a year.

For more information about the NFIP and flood insurance, call 800-427-4661, or contact your insurance company or agent. For agent referral, call 888-435-6637, 24/7 on-going.

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Make sure to follow local building codes and ordinances when rebuilding, and use flood-resistant materials and techniques to protect yourself and your property from future flood damage.

Well & Septic System Testing

Floodwaters are frequently contaminated with a variety of pollutants including sewage and fuel oil. If your water supply is from a private well on your property and that wellhead was covered by floodwaters, the well may have been contaminated. To protect your family from this contamination, your well should be tested as soon as power has been restored to your house. Your county health department does well testing and will issue the necessary documents to show that your water is safe.

Septic systems can also be damaged by floodwaters and must be tested/inspected to ensure that they will perform properly and protect your family from sewage backups and contamination. Once again, contact your county health department for testing/inspection information.

Sullivan County Health Dept.	845-794-2045
Orange County Health Dept.	845-343-0886 or 888-976-8773
Ulster County Health Dept.	845-340-3150 or 845-334-2145 for emergency (after hours)
Sullivan County Septic Svce Inc	845-583-4064
Ulster County Heat/Water/Septic	845-340-3010

Mold

After the initial damage from floodwaters, the dampness that remains becomes an excellent environment for the growth of mold and mildew. This mold can be a health hazard and must be dealt with properly during the clean up and repair process. Testing, inspection, and mold removal advice are available from several agencies.

Town of Rockland, 95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY 12758	Charles Irace, Inspector	845-439-4399 ext. 305
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Moisture control

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/housing/pubs/fcs486.html>

Reasons not to sample

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/mold/moldtest.html>

Asthma, allergies and indoor air

<http://www.lungnc.org/>

Controlling Mold

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hous2/MF2141.PDF>

Entering flooded buildings

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/docs/hurricanesafe.htm>

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Heating Oil Tank Leaks

Underground or basement installed heating oil tanks may have been damaged by floodwaters. Leaking oil in your basement or yard is an environmental hazard and needs to be dealt with properly.

NYS Emergency Spill Hotline	(800) 457-7362, 24/7
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Contractor Fraud

Unfortunately natural disasters sometimes bring out the worst in some people – people who take advantage of those who have already been hard hit by flood damage to their homes by inflating prices for materials and repair services and providing substandard workmanship. When considering hiring any particular contractor, be sure to get and check references from them get a written contract specifying a price and start and end time for the work, and make no payment until after work is completed. If you have any doubts about a specific contractor or believe that you have been the victim of fraudulent business practices by a contractor, contact your county Department of Consumer Affairs and the Better Business Bureau for assistance.

Better Business Bureau-Mid Hudson Or visit www.bbb.org for information	24 Hour InfoLine, (914) 333-0550
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Replacement of Damaged Documents

Replacement of important documents such as mortgage notes, property deeds, marriage certificates, divorce decrees, passports etc. is often necessary after a major disaster such as a flood.

Sullivan County Clerk	845-794-3000 ext. 5012
Rockland Town Clerk	845-439-5450 ext. 300
Ulster County Clerk	845-340-3288
Port Jervis, City Clerk	845-858-4014

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Tax Deductions

Property losses from natural disasters are tax deductible. If you claim a casualty loss resulting from a disaster, you may be asked to show:

- The kind of disaster and when it occurred
- The damage that was a direct result of the disaster
- Proof of ownership of the property
- Your income tax basis in the property. This is the total value of your home (original cost plus cost of any improvements) minus any depreciation claimed for income tax purposes.
- Fair market value before and after the disaster
- Insurance benefits, free repairs, restoration, and cleanup from disaster relief agencies.

Before and after photographs, receipts, canceled checks, deeds, purchase contracts, and professional appraisals are good supporting evidence for casualty claims.

For more information, call the **IRS at 1-800-829-3676** or visit www.irs.gov for forms and information on how to contact specific units.

Donations

If you are fortunate enough to not have suffered major damage during the floods and would like to help your neighbors who may not have been as lucky, there are several Agencies and town-based groups that are accepting donations and volunteer support. Please check with the various agencies BEFORE making any donation of goods or materials so as to make sure that your donation will have the greatest possible positive impact. Monetary donations are almost ALWAYS the most useful for the recovery effort.

Also, please call 211 or 1-800-899-1479 for additional information on donating goods/financial assistance.

Livingston Manor Community Center Rockland Relief Fund	845-439-8029
Salvation Army of Port Jervis	845-856-3214
Catholic Charities of Sullivan County	845.216.2451
United Way of Sullivan County	845-794-1771
Community Action Committee to Help the Economy (CACHE)	845-292-5821
United Methodist Committee on Relief	607-865-5765
American Red Cross in Greater New York	1-877-REDCROSS, ext. 2617

Volunteer

Please send additions/corrections to Pat Anderson at 2-1-1 at panderso@uwwp.org

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Many organizations and agencies are doing what they can to assist victims of the flooding. However, without the help of volunteers, they are limited in the services they can provide. If you are willing to volunteer some time cleaning houses, repairing homes, distributing food, etc, contact one of the agencies below to find out if they are a good fit for you. Please also call 211 or 1-800-899-1479 for additional information on volunteering.

Home Repair/Cleaning/Mud Removal:

United Methodist Committee on Relief	607-865-5765
Erin Phelon, Just for cleaning	845-754-7456, Call after 2:00 pm
Catholic Charities	845-216-2451

Food/Clothing/Food Distribution:

Salvation Army	845-856-3214
Catholic Charities	845.216.2451
CACHE	845-292-5821
Hancock Baptist Church	607-637-2601

Disaster Relief Training

American Red Cross in Greater New York	1-877-REDCROSS
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Food & Household Supplies

During clean up efforts, it is often not easy or even possible to prepare food and manage a household in a normal fashion. Several area agencies have been providing assistance with meals. Other agencies are supplying food items, clothing, household cleaning supplies, toiletries, and cleanup assistance to flood victims. Please note that most agencies listed below may have certain requirements and limitations so keep in mind that the assistance will be offered on a case by case basis.

For additional information, call 211 or 1-800-899-1479. 2-1-1 is a free, confidential, multilingual information and referral telephone service. Call 2-1-1 for everything from basic needs like food, clothing and shelter to legal services, drug treatment, employment support, childcare, physical/mental health resources, elder care, services for persons with disabilities and more.

Salvation Army	Comprehensive Assistance may include: Food/Clothing/Home Repair/Appliance Repair/Financial Assistance	845-856-3214
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Catholic Charities	Comprehensive Assistance may include: Food/Clothing/Home Repair/Appliance Repair/Financial Assistance	845.216.2451
United Methodist Church Committee for Relief	Offering flood cleanup in homes. Also minor home repair and food/clothing assistance.	607-865-5765
Kohl's Distribution	Offering "disaster packs" which include pillows, blankets, towels and washcloths	Connect with 2-1-1
Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless	Offering housing and housing advocacy. Also offering soup kitchen/food pantry. Offering assistance to clients with AIDS/HIV with homebound meal delivery and assisted housing.	845.794.2604
Community Action Committee to Help the Economy (CACHE)	CACHE is offering assistance that may include food/clothing/thrift store.	845-292-5821
Hancock Baptist Church	Comprehensive Assistance may include: Clean-up supplies/food/clothing	607-637-2601
Holy Cross Church Food Pantry (Callicoon)	Food Certificates. Anytime by appointment	845-887-5450
To God be the Glory Food Pantry (Bloomingburg)	Food Pantry. Middletown-makes stops in Bloomingburg. Mon-Fri by appointment	845-344-2676
United Methodist Church (Callicoon)	Food Pantry. 2 nd and 4 th Thursdays 2pm-4pm, walk-in with ID.	845-887-5112
CACHE HPNAP (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program) (Callicoon)	Food Pantry. Park parking lot. Usually 2 nd Thursday 10am-10:15am. Call Sue for information or enrollment.	845-292-5821 ext. 620
CACHE HPNAP Distribution (Liberty)	Food Pantry. Parking lot behind library. Usually 2 nd Thursday 11:05am-11:20am. Call Sue for information or enrollment.	845-292-5821 ext. 620
CACHE HPNAP Distribution (Eldred)	Food Pantry. Eldred Town Hall, usually every 2 nd Thursday 12:15-12:30pm. Call Sue for information or enrollment.	845-292-5821 ext. 620
Claryville Reformed Church (Claryville)	Food Pantry. Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm.	845-985-2041
United Methodist Church of Grahamsville	Comprehensive Assistance may include food/clothing/home repair	845-985-2283
Hankins Assemblies of God	Food Pantry. 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday 2-4pm. Walk in with ID. Call at anytime if an emergency.	845-482-5864
Reformed Presbyterian Church/ Shepherd Food Pantry (White Lake)	Food Pantry. 2 nd Thursday – 10am-2pm 4 th Thursday 5pm-7pm	845-583-4679
Roscoe Presbyterian Church (Roscoe)	Food Pantry. Mon-Weds between 10am-2pm. Call first to confirm.	607-498-4468
St. Andrews Episcopal Church (South Fallsburg)	Food Pantry. 2 nd and 4 th Friday 5-7pm	845-436-7539

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CACHE HPNAP Distribution (South Fallsburg)	Food Pantry. Town Hall, usually every 1 st Friday 11:05-11:30am. Call Sue for information or enrollment.	845-292-5821 ext. 620
Mamakating United Methodist Church (Summitville)	Food Pantry. Anytime by appointment (residential number).	845-647-5452
CACHE HPNAP Distribution (Livingston Manor)	Food Pantry – Hemlock Ridge Apts. Usually 1 st Thursday 11:25am–11:45am. Call Sue for information or enrollment	845-292-5821 ext. 620
CACHE HPNAP Distribution (Livingston Manor)	Food Pantry – Livingston Manor Community Center. Usually 1 st Thursday 11:50am-12:15pm. Call Sue for information and enrollment.	845-292-5821 ext. 620
United Methodist Church (Livingston Manor)	Food Pantry. Call for information.	(845) 439-5134
Saint George’s Church (Jeffersonville)	Food Pantry. Call for appointment between 9am-1pm.	(845) 482-4640
CACHE HPNAP Distribution (Woodridge)	Food Pantry. Woodridge Town Hall. Usually 1 st Friday 10:30-10:45am. Call Sue for information or enrollment.	845-292-5821 ext. 620
Lighthouse Assembly of God (Woodburne also Sunrise Trailer Pk)	May provide Food/Clothes/Food vouchers.	845-985-7070
Church of the Nazarene (Rock Hill)	Food Pantry. Call for location and appointment.	845-796-3729
First Assembly of God Food Pantry, 12 Old Greenville Turnpike, Port Jervis, NY 12771	Food Pantry. Call for details	845-856-1826
Helping Hands of Drew United Methodist Church, 49-51 Sussex Street, Port Jervis, NY 12771	Food Pantry. Every Saturday from 9:30 am-11:00 am	845-856-3423
Hope Center Food Pantry, 131 Schoolhouse Road, Port Jervis, NY 12771	Food Pantry. Call for details	845-856-3432
Salvation Army, 99 Ball Street, Port Jervis, NY 12771	Food Pantry. Call for details	845-856-3214

Storage Units

During flood clean up and reconstruction, it may be necessary to store household items offsite. Some local storage companies are offering discounted storage units on a limited basis to flood victims.

The Storage Center	Offering limited storage 5’ by 5’	845-791-7500, \$29/month
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Counseling and Mental Health

The stress of dealing with the destruction and devastation caused by a flood can be overwhelming. Most clergy are well equipped to provide assistance and counseling under these circumstances. However, if you or someone in your family is in need of additional counseling assistance and support, the following can help you find the needed assistance.

Mobile Mental Health- Sullivan County	800-710-7083
Sullivan County Mental Health	845-292-8770
Orange County Psychiatric Mobile Response	845-291-2600
Orange County Mental Health	800-832-1200 or 845-294-9355
Ulster County Family of Woodstock	845-679-2485
Ulster County Department of Mental Health	845-340-4000
Hudson Valley 211	211 or 1-800-899-1479

Utilities

Part of your repair needs may well include electrical system or gas equipment repairs and reconnections. To minimize the dangers associated with these utilities, it is necessary to contact your gas and electric suppliers before reconnecting these services. In the majority of the flood-affected area, NYSEG is the supplier of both your electric and gas service and can be reached at 800-572-1111. Central Hudson Gas and Electric covers some areas and can be reached at 800-527-2714.

Other Supportive Services in Sullivan County

Action Toward Independence -Services for individuals with disabilities-	845-794-4228 (Sullivan County) 845-343-4284 (Orange County)
Resource Center for Accessible Living- Ulster County	845-331-0541
Orange –Ulster BOCES	845-291-0100
Adult Education (BOCES) -GED-ESL-Basic AE-Vocational Training-	845-791-4070
Catholic Charities	845-791-6023
Catskill Regional Medical Center	845-794-3300
Child Abuse Hotline	800-342-3720
CACHE -Heating Assistance-	845-292-5821
Catholic Charities-Ulster County	845-340-9170
Catholic Charities-Orange County	845-561-3452
Consumer Credit Counseling Services	800-479-6026
Cornell Cooperative Extension	845-292-6180 (Sullivan County)

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-financial Ed, Ag Ed, 4-H school and youth programs-	845-344-1234 (Orange County) 845-340-3990 (Ulster County)
Delaware Valley Job Corps -Residential Vocational Education-	845-887-5400
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	800-669-4000
Federation for the Homeless	845-794-2604
Internal Revenue Service	800-829-1040
Job Accommodation Network -Disabilities-	800-526-7234
Literacy Volunteers of America – Sullivan County	845-794-0017
Literacy Volunteers of Western Orange County	845-341-5460
Ulster Literacy Association	845-331-6837
Dispute Resolution Center	845-794-3377
NY State Police – Orange County	845-344-5300
NY State Police – Sullivan County	845-292-6600
NY State Police –Ulster County, Kingston	845-338-1702
NYS Dep't of Labor, Div of Employment Services	845-794-3340
NYS Dep't of Labor -Unemployment Insurance Benefits Claim & Check-	845-794-3340, Sullivan County 845-346-1162, Orange County
NYS Disability Program	518-474-6681
NYS Division of Human Rights	914-949-4394
Occupational Safety of Health Admin (OSHA)	(800) 321-6742
Poison Control Center	800-336-6997
RISE (Rape Intervention Services and Ed) -24 hr hotline, Counseling and Support-	845-794-4880
Orange County Sexual Assault Hotline	845-832-1200
Ulster County Sexual Assault Hotline (Family of Woodstock)	845-679-2485
Rural Opportunities -Housing- -Training and Employment for Seasonal/Migrant workers-	845-794-4880
Family of Woodstock, Ulster County -Housing-	845-331-7080 (Kingston) 845-647-2443 (Ellenville)
Housing Authority of Ellenville, Ulster County -Housing-	845-647-8686
Middletown Housing Authority, Orange County -Housing-	845-343-1168
Regional Economic Community Action Program, Orange County -Housing-	845-342-3978
Safe Passage -Domestic Violence-	845-292-5700, 24/7 Hotline

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Safe Houses, Orange County -Domestic Violence-	888-503-4673
Family of Woodstock, Ulster County -Domestic Violence-	845-679-2485
Social Security Administration	800-772-1213
Sullivan County BOCES (Board Of Cooperative Education Services) -Adult Ed, Career/Technical Ed-	845-292-0082
Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development	845-794-3340
Ulster County Office of Employment and Training- ONE STOP	845-340-3170
Orange County Department of Labor, Port Jervis	845-858-9993
Sullivan County Child Care Council	845-292-7166
Orange County Child Care Council	845-294-4012
Ulster County Child Care Council	845-331-5197
Sullivan County Community College -AA, AS, AAS, AOS Degrees & Certificates- -Non-credit/continuing education-	845-434-5750
Recovery Center – Sullivan County	845-794-8080
Sullivan County Community Services -Mental Health Clinic- -Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services-	845-292-8770
Orange County Regional Medical Center -Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services-	845-294-5441
Ulster County Mental Health Department -Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services-	845-340-4000
Sullivan County Div of Health & Family Services -Child Protective Services- -Public Health Nursing- -WIC Women/Infants/Children- -Home Health Agency- -Communicable Diseases- -Immunization Program- -Public Assistance, Medicaid, Youth Bureau-	845-292-0100
Orange County Department of Social Services -Child Protective Services- -Public Health Nursing- -Home Health Care Assistance-	845-291-4000
Ulster County Department of Social Services -Child Protective Services- -Public Health Nursing-	845-334-5000

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Sullivan County Government Center Personnel ext 5030 Probation ext 3400 Motor Vehicle ext 5400 Office for Aging ext 5004 County Clerk ext 5012 Veteran's Services ext 3370 Family Court ext 5026	845-794-3000 845-794-3000
Legal Services of The Hudson Valley	845-569-9110 (Orange & Sullivan County)
Sullivan County Public Health Services	845-292-0100
Orange County Department of Health	845-291-2332
Ulster County Department of Health	845-340-3150
Sullivan County Sheriff's Dep't	845-794-7100
Sullivan County Transportation	845-807-0180
Ulster County Area Transit	845-340-3333
Kingston Citibus, Ulster County	845-331-3725
Dial-A-Ride Para transit, Orange County	845-291-2410
Orange County Department of Planning -Transportation-	845-291-2318
Sullivan Works One Stop Center NYS Dept of Labor, Div of Employment Services -Job Matching- -Employment Counseling- -Veteran's Services- SC Center for Workforce Development -TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)- -WIA (Workforce Investment Act & Dislocated Worker)- -WtW (Welfare to Work)- -Wheels for Work- -Title V-	845-794-3340 845-794-3340
One Stop Employment, Orange County, Port Jervis	845-858-9993
One Stop Employment, Ulster County	845-340-3170
Sullivan County Youth Advocate Program	845-292-0092
Vocational & Ed Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) -Training and Job Placement-	845-794-5317
Voter Registration	800-367-8683

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Worker's Compensation Board	845-794-4128
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Unmet Needs/Special Services

United Way of Sullivan County	845-794-1771
United Way of Orange County	845-457-4774
United Way of Ulster County	845-331-4199

What to Do After a Flood

Flooding continues to cause problems and even dangerous conditions for those in the central and eastern sections of New York State. Follow these safety tips to protect yourself and your family from the hazards associated with flooding.

Returning Home

- Stay informed! Listen to the radio or TV for instructions from local officials.
- Wait until an area has been declared safe before entering it. Be careful driving, since roads may be damaged and power lines may be down.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Restrict children from playing in flooded areas.
- Before entering a building, check for structural damage. Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank. Let the building air out to remove foul odors or escaping gas.
- When entering the building, use a battery-powered flashlight. Do not use an open flame as a source of light. Gas may be trapped inside.
- When inspecting the building, wear rubber boots and gloves. Watch for electrical shorts and live wires before making certain the main power switch is off.
- Do not turn on electrical appliances until an electrician has checked the system and appliances.
- If, for any reason, you have turned off natural gas service to your home, call your natural gas utility to restore service. Do not attempt to restore gas service yourself.
- Test drinking water for potability. Wells should be pumped out and water tested for drinking. If the public water system is declared "unsafe" by health officials, water for drinking and cooking should be boiled vigorously for 10 minutes.

Food & Medicine

- Food and medicine that has been exposed to flood waters should be discarded because of possible contamination.
- Destroy the contents of foods in glass jars that have been exposed to flood waters.

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- Wash canned goods that have come into contact with floodwaters with soap and hot water. Check for broken food-safety seals. Destroy canned foods when swelling, rusting or serious denting is visible.

- Cook all foods thoroughly. Frozen foods that have been thawed should be discarded if not consumed immediately, or kept refrigerated at 45 degrees F. or lower.

Household Clean-Up

- Prior to flooding, power should have been turned off in cellars. If possible, wait for ground waters to drop below floor level. Otherwise, drain or pump water from flooded cellars.
- Wash down walls, floors and other areas exposed to flood waters with soap and hot water.
- Keep windows and doors open for ventilation.
- Disinfect the washed areas by applying a solution of bleach with a broom. The solution is prepared by adding four tablespoons of bleach to five gallons of water. Allow the solution to remain on the surface for approximately 10 minutes. Rinse with cold water as soon as possible to minimize staining.
- Furniture: Clean and then wash metal and leather surfaces with mild soap and water and wipe dry immediately. Some upholstery may be washed on the surface with soap and water and wiped dry. Expose to open air and sunshine.
- Floor Coverings: Flush rugs and carpets with a hose and squeegee, then wash with lukewarm water containing a detergent. Rinse and dry in sun.

Personal Safety

- Rubber gloves should be worn while scrubbing damaged interiors with a bleach solution.
- Don't neglect supposedly minor cuts, scratches or other injuries or sickness experienced during the emergency.
- Individuals who suffer injury that results in an open wound or who swallow contaminated flood water should seek medical attention.