



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES**

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**James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D.**  
Secretary

**FROM: James W. Holsinger, Jr., MD  
Secretary**

**TO: All Cabinet Employees**

**DATE: September 6, 2005**

**Our United Commitment to Displaced Persons  
in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina**

In light of the devastation and desperate conditions caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has doubled its efforts to coordinate and provide essential services for displaced persons who are migrating to Kentucky from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Through these trying times it is the goal and purpose of the Cabinet to meet the needs of displaced persons through the provision of essential life services. The attachments to this letter are informational guides to the various programs and benefits that may be sought by displaced persons. These guides reflect our Cabinet's commitment to relax and simplify bureaucratic requirements so that displaced persons may have access to necessary services in a prompt and efficient manner. I encourage you to disseminate these materials freely to all persons and agencies who may be able to connect displaced persons with the services provided by the Cabinet.

It is the Governor's intent that a displaced person from the Hurricane Katrina disaster shall receive all available and appropriate services offered by the various agencies of the Cabinet. I ask that you explore every possible available resource to provide assistance to the persons and families in need. I am confident that all Cabinet employees will show compassion and love for each displaced person in light of the losses to family, property and possessions that he or she may have experienced.

All of the Cabinet agencies are working together to connect displaced persons to necessary services. Many displaced persons were evacuated without personal

documentation so all Cabinet agencies have agreed to relax normal documentation requirements to facilitate the approval of appropriate services.

Attached are various informational memos and documents to help you connect displaced persons with our Cabinet's services. Available services will be coordinated by two (2) Departments within our Cabinet: the Department for Community Based Services ("DCBS", primarily handling social services) and the Department for Public Health ("DPH", primarily handling public health and medical services). Specific information is attached to this letter concerning available services and the department responsible for coordinating those services:

<b><u>Department for Community Based Services</u></b>	<b><u>Department for Public Health</u></b>
Food Stamps Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP) Medicaid Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR)	Clinical (medical) services WIC Program Kentucky Physician Care (KPC) HIV/AIDS Immunizations
<b>**For each of these services, please direct displaced person to the local DCBS (social services) office.**</b>	<b>**For each of these services, please direct displaced persons to the local Health Department**</b>

The Cabinet has created a website, [www.KatrinaRelief.CHFS.ky.gov](http://www.KatrinaRelief.CHFS.ky.gov) that will keep you updated on our response to the needs of displaced person. There is also a link to our efforts to track displaced persons in Kentucky. To achieve our goal of providing services to displaced persons, the Cabinet has created an online database so that so that each Department can be flexible to meet individual needs at the places where they are needed. I have attached a form that you may complete to gather contact information from displaced persons whom you serve.

Additionally, I have attached brochures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) handouts regarding health concerns related to hurricanes and community shelters.

Finally, do not forget to refer and recommend the resources and services of the community partners (e.g., the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, etc.) in your area. The complementary efforts of persons in both public and private agencies are essential to effectively meet the varied needs of those displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Each day you make a difference in the lives of Kentuckians. Now you have an opportunity to show our neighbors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama the warmth and compassion that defines the character of all Kentuckians. Thank you for your efforts and may our service restore hope to those in need.

Sincerely,

James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D.  
Secretary