



410-313-2022 / ECFloodRecovery@HowardCounty.md.gov

November 4, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I get back into my home permanently?

As apartment buildings are deemed safe for re-entry by county building and fire inspectors and structural engineers, landlords have been asked to reach out to their tenants when buildings can be reoccupied.

All utilities (water, sewer, electric and gas) must be restored before individuals are allowed to return.

What resources are available?

We have made many resources available at www.ecfloodrecovery.org

Those residents and businesses still in need of information or assistance may call 410-313-2900 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Attendants will be available to help direct those in need to the available resources.

What parking is available in Downtown Ellicott City?

On-street parking of personal vehicles will remain prohibited on Main Street. Parking is available in all county lots.

What other kind of work still needs to be completed along Main Street?

While all sections of Ellicott City's Main Street are open, much of the area remains an active construction scene. There may often be traffic flagging operations, on-going infrastructure improvements and private contractors working on building repairs. Caution is urged while traveling in the area.

What about historical preservation questions?

Preservation Maryland has opened a temporary resource center in Ellicott City to assist owners of historic properties in their recovery efforts. The center will provide technical assistance to help owners rebuild damaged historic properties along Main Street, connect them with consultants and contractors, help them with the historic district review process and provide them with information on relevant local, state and federal financial assistance and tax credit programs.

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For help, go to <http://preservationmaryland.org/ellicott-city-preservation-resource-center/>

How can I find a licensed contractor?

Please be sure to independently verify any licensed contractors. License status of contractors and salespeople can be reviewed at <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic/>

How can I help?

How to donate

The outpouring of donations has been overwhelming. While we are so grateful, our support agencies no longer have the capacity to accept, store or distribute physical donations. If you wish to donate, please do so monetarily through one of the following organizations:

United Way of Central Maryland

www.uwcm.org/ecstrong

Ellicott City Partnership

www.HelpEllicottCity.com

Community Action Council of Howard County

www.cac-hc.org

While there are certainly other legitimate organizations accepting monetary donations, using one of the above three avenues helps guarantee your donations will go to use where you intend.

How can I get the latest news about the recovery efforts?

Follow Howard County Government on our flood recovery website or social media at:

www.ECfloodrecovery.org

<https://www.facebook.com/hocogov/>

<https://www.twitter.com/@HoCoGov>

How can I get mental health support or speak with a counselor?

The Howard County Mental Health Authority is responsible for planning, managing and monitoring publicly funded mental health services in Howard County. For information call 410-313-7350.

How can I file an insurance claim?

The Maryland Insurance Administration has representatives available to assist Marylanders filing insurance claims as a result of the flooding in Howard County. Consumers can contact the Maryland Insurance Administration at 410-468-2340 or 1-800-492-6116 if they need assistance with property and casualty claims related to the storm.

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Howard County Disaster Declaration

What does a Presidential Disaster Declaration mean for Howard County?

- Howard County received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance.
- The Public Assistance Program provides disaster recovery assistance to local, state, and tribal governments along with certain private nonprofit organizations that provide government like services. This program does not provide reimbursement to individuals or the general public.
- In other words, this program does not provide any disaster relief to individuals or households, only to public entities and under some circumstances, eligible non-profit organizations.
- **The Public Assistance program provides reimbursement to the applicants (described above) for eligible work such as debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent work such as road repairs.**
- **In addition to the Public Assistance Program, the Presidential Disaster Declaration authorizes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which will assist eligible applicants with mitigation projects that will reduce or lessen damages from future disasters.**

What does this process entail?

- The federal disaster relief programs require a process that included the following steps:
 - Applicant (Howard County) must meet very specific eligibility criteria;
 - Federal, state, and local teams conducted a damage assessment jointly on the impacted area;
 - A formal request from the Governor was made to the President for application for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance; and
 - In this instance, the State was awarded Public Assistance for Howard County but was denied a declaration for Individual Assistance.

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The County received a disaster declaration, but are there other federal disaster relief programs available that can help me?

- The Small Business Administration (SBA) declared a physical disaster declaration for Howard County following the flooding. Businesses, homeowners, and renters in Howard County were eligible to apply for low-interest rate loans.
- This program includes loans for both physical damages and economic injuries.
- For more information, please refer to the SBA webpage for this disaster: <https://www.sba.gov/offices/disaster/dfoce/declaration/1537690>
- Howard County applied for but was not granted the award for Individual Assistance.
- Individual Assistance provides assistance to those who have eligible, necessary expenses and serious needs they are unable to meet through other avenues.
- Individual Assistance is typically awarded only during wide spread catastrophic disasters.

What if I have unmet needs?

- Refer to the Resources Tab on the website for local and state resources.
- The Ellicott City Long Term Recovery Committee (EC-LTRC) seeks to provide "gap services" to those affected by the flooding on July 30, 2016 with a special focus on the Main Street Ellicott City community, in order to assist them in their own recovery.
 - For more information, visit their website: <http://www.ellicottcityrecovery.org/>