

Don't Wait Until an Emergency!

Pre-registering will ensure you have a back-up plan in place. If you can stay with family or friends or at a hotel out of the emergency area, please do so.

If you have no other sheltering option, pre-registering and being prepared to go to the special needs shelter will make the emergency easier to manage. Make sure to bring medical supplies and current medications to support any needs you may have while you're away from home. Caregivers to accompany you may be required.

Can I Bring My Pets?

Pets are permitted at the Special Needs Shelter. Animal Control will be on site to oversee pets.

Service Animal Supplies:

- Food, dishes, and medicines
- Plastic bags, disposable gloves, and other body functional needs
- Toys for your pet (if needed)
- Crate and leash

Should I Register?

The answer is "Yes" if you have no other place to go and need:

- Storage of medication that requires refrigeration
- Observation by a healthcare professional
- Electricity for life-supporting medical equipment
- Basic nursing care
- Oxygen therapy

How do I Apply for a Special Needs Shelter?

You can apply for the Special Needs Registry at the following link:

<https://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/Important-Resources/State-Special-Needs-Registry>

For more information or assistance, contact Leon County Emergency Management at (850) 606-3700 or visit: <https://www.leonready.com/>



Leon County Special Needs Registry

Disaster Preparedness for those with Special Medical Needs





What is a Special Needs Shelter?

A special needs shelter is a place to stay when you have no other sheltering option. It should ONLY be used as a back-up to your personal sheltering plan.

A special needs shelter provides more care and supervision than a regular shelter to ensure your special medical needs are met during an evacuation.

To the extent possible under emergency conditions, the special needs shelter will provide a safe environment and basic assistance to maintain your current level of health.

What Should I Expect?

Special needs shelters do not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor does it provide the level of care found in a medical facility.

A shelter may be in a school or other public facility. It may be crowded, noisy and lack any form of entertainment.

What Should I Bring?

Five Day Supply Medical Supplies & Equipment (if needed):

- Batteries/chargers for electrical equipment (wheelchair, scooter, etc.)
- Cane or walker
- Catheter and wound care supplies
- Diabetes equipment
- Documents of medical information
- First aid kit
- Current medications (5 day supply)
- Nebulizer
- Oxygen concentrator
- Ostomy or oxygen supplies if needed
- Adult incontinence items

Food Items and Infant Care:

- Non-perishable dietary, special dietary foods, and snacks
- Baby wipes, diapers, formula/food, blankets, etc.
- Prescribed medications

Miscellaneous:

- Cell phone with charger
- Books, games, radio, etc.
- Dentures and hearing aids
- Extra pair of glasses or dark glasses
- Towels, body wipes, or washcloths
- Hygiene toiletries
- Important papers, pictures, contacts, and small amount of cash
- Extra clothing
- Bedding and pillow
- Advance legal documents: will, DNR, Power of Attorney

Am I Eligible?

You may be, if:

- Your impairments or disabilities are stable
- You are not significantly immunocompromised
- Your care exceeds basic first aid provided at a general shelter
- Your impairments or disabilities can be managed by the available medical staff and equipment of the Special Needs Shelter

The medical staff and equipment at the shelter is decided by the local emergency management agency and the county health department or designee.

Individuals Who are Not Eligible

You may not be, if:

People requiring hospital care to treat severe or advanced medical conditions are NOT eligible for this program and should make prior arrangements with their doctors for transportation and evacuation.

Residents of Assisted Living Facilities such as nursing homes, group homes or retirement facilities. These facilities have their own emergency plans, and should be able to assist their residents with transportation and shelter.