Am I Eligible?

You may be, if you:

- have minor health/medical condition(s) that require professional observation, assessment, and maintenance
- require assistance with personal care and/or assistance with medications but do not require hospitalization or a medical institution
- need assistance with medication administration and/or vital sign readings and are unable to do so without professional assistance

Important note: Registrants assigned to a Special Needs Shelter must submit a new application every two years, to ensure that current medical and contact information is on file.



Pre-registration is strongly encouraged!

If you can stay with family, 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 navigate. 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 are encouraged.





What is a Special Needs Shelter?

During an emergency, a Special Needs Shelter offers basic medical assistance and monitoring. Shelters are staffed by qualified medical personnel and have back-up electricity for limited lighting, air conditioning and essential medical equipment. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany you. Shelters should ONLY be used as a back-up to your personal sheltering plan.

- What Should I Expect? -

In Broward County, shelters are located in schools. Special Needs Shelters do not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor the level of care found in a medical facility

You can expect the following:

- Basic medical assistance and monitoring. Complex medical equipment or care is not available.
- Food and water. If you have special dietary concerns or have comfort foods and snacks, bring those items with you. Non-perishable dietary items only.
- Back-up electricity for light, air conditioning, and essential medical equipment.

You should bring at least a 7-day supply of current medication and any life sustaining medical equipment you have and will need for your stay at the shelter. Transportation can be provided to and from the Special Needs Shelter. (Please ensure this need is indicated on the application.)



Can I Bring My Pets?

ONLY Service Animals are allowed in a Special Needs Shelter. Pets and emotional support animals are not allowed.

According to the ADA, a Service Animal is a dog or miniature horse that has been trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. All food, medicines, toys, and other necessary supplies must accompany the Service Animal to the shelter environment. Their care is the sole responsibility of the owner, so having an additional caregiver present is recommended.

