

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS: SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

If you have a medical condition that requires a greater level of care than that provided at a General Population Shelter, but you do not require hospitalization or a medical institution, a Special Needs Shelter may be appropriate for you. These shelters offer basic medical assistance and monitoring. They are staffed by qualified medical personnel and have back-up electricity for limited lighting and essential medical equipment. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to accompany you.

Special Needs Shelters are appropriate 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.

Special Needs Shelters cannot accommodate persons who:

- Are in a wheelchair and cannot transfer to a bed or toilet without assistance
- Require 24-hour electrical power for their treatment modality
- Are incontinent and not accompanied by a caregiver
- Have advanced Alzheimer's disease
- Need air-conditioning 24-hours a day.

Reasonable accommodation will be made for shelter residents with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need transfer assistance, sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, or a quiet zone for a cognitive disability or mental health need, call Broward County Human Services Department at (954) 357-6385 or TTY 954-357-5608 for the most updated information. Residents with service animals are welcome at all shelter sites.

Pre-registration for the Special Needs Shelter is open throughout the year, and while not required, is strongly encouraged to ensure that the shelter will be adequately prepared to meet your needs. All residents seeking shelter in a Special Needs Facility will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the best shelter option.

To request or obtain an application for a Special Needs Shelter, call Broward County Human Services Division at (954) 357-6385 or TTY 954-357-5608. For more details, including application forms you can download and print, go online to: www.broward.org/AtRisk.