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**STATE OF INDIANA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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Disaster assistance centers added in Porter, LaPorte

INDIANAPOLIS – Two more state disaster assistance centers will open on Friday in LaPorte and Porter counties. The locations are:

- Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Office  
152 Indiana Avenue  
Valparaiso
- Family and Social Services Administration Office  
1230 State Road 2 West  
LaPorte

The centers will be open starting tomorrow (Friday) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Other days of operation are Saturday, Monday and Tuesday.

Representatives from FEMA, the state Department of Workforce Development, Department of Health and Department of Insurance will be available, in addition to staff from FSSA. Representatives at these locations can assist with questions about social services, including emergency food stamps, unemployment insurance, insurance policies and other issues.

Several hundred people already have received help at the three Lake County assistance centers that opened today in Lake County to help victims of severe weather that occurred when the remnants of Hurricane Ike passed through Indiana on the weekend of September 13. The Lake County locations are: former Maruszczak Appliance store, 9450 Calumet Avenue, Munster; VFW, 2750 Central Avenue, Lake Station; and Ivy Tech Community College, 1440 East 35th Avenue, Gary. In Gary, emergency food stamp distribution is taking place at the Gary Career Center, 1800 East 35th Avenue.

The state was notified Tuesday that the federal government had declared a major disaster for Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties and approved federal individual assistance for affected residents.

Computers and phones to make application for FEMA assistance are available at the disaster centers, but it is not necessary to come to a center to complete one. Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the three counties can

register online at <http://www.fema.gov/assistance> or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time.

FEMA assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

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