



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

October 4, 2004

# Advisory

## **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA MEET NEEDS OF NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUPS**

FEMA, a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the State of Florida are seeking to meet the needs of non-English-speaking groups and provide them with the basic life-saving and life-sustaining needs.

Working toward that goal FEMA will:

- Reach out to special language needs groups that are reluctant to come forward and ask for help for fear of immigration problems.
- Reach out to migrant farm workers.
- Send mobile FEMA representatives into non-English speaking areas offering help.
- The diversity/outreach program will work through Florida agriculture labor programs, farm workers associations, local community groups and local churches with the support of the Florida governor's office.
- Stress that undocumented individuals have a right to the basic life sustaining essentials.
- Stress that the children of undocumented residents who were born in the United States are entitled to assistance and their parents need not fear being identified for disaster assistance.

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