



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Mike Beatty  
COMMISSIONER

Sonny Perdue  
GOVERNOR

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Managers of Tax Credit Properties

**FROM:** Mike Beatty, Commissioner *MB*

**DATE:** September 7, 2005

**RE:** GeorgiaHousingSearch.org – Permanent Housing for Evacuees of Hurricane Katrina

Due to the recent catastrophic hurricane, tens of thousands across the south are without basic shelter and will not be able to return to their homes anytime in the near future. As a result, a large number of hurricane victims are coming to Georgia. While some have short-term housing, most are in need of permanent housing situations. Many of you have contacted DCA seeking information to help link your properties directly with these families.

To help meet this critical need, DCA has activated a new housing search database found at [www.GeorgiaHousingSearch.org](http://www.GeorgiaHousingSearch.org) which will enable property managers to enter their property and vacant unit information and will, ultimately allow prospective renters to search available properties. **This is a FREE listing service for all landlords and property owners of affordable rental units.**

Through our partnership with SocialServe.com, customer support personnel are available to assist you with your initial registration and to explain the features of this system. After you initially log on to the system and input basic information about your property management firm, a customer support agent will contact you within two business days to complete the registration process. Often, this support is provided within a matter of hours.

To help you provide your housing to evacuees, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced on Friday that they will waive rules that prohibit owners of low-income housing from providing housing to victims of Hurricane Katrina who do not qualify as low income. DCA has issued some temporary guidance for your use in qualifying evacuees for residence at these properties. You may find that guidance at the Hurricane Katrina link on the main page of our web site at [www.dca.state.ga.us](http://www.dca.state.ga.us).

We have not received a similar action to date from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); therefore, properties with HOME compliance requirements must continue to follow standard qualification procedures. If a similar waiver of the income requirements is provided, we will pass that information along to you as soon as possible.

As you have contact with evacuees from the Hurricane Katrina affected areas, please be sure to remind them to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that they obtain access to all of the services and benefits available to them. Their registration will be critical to ensuring their qualification under the IRS ruling and to accessing rental

assistance to support their permanent housing situations. Evacuees may contact FEMA directly at 1-800-621-3362.

We hope that you will consider moving quickly to market your properties to the victims of this tragic disaster. Later this week, DCA will make the system available to evacuees and support agencies to begin matching families with your units.

If you have questions about [GeorgiaHousingSearch.org](http://GeorgiaHousingSearch.org), please contact [SocialServe.com](http://SocialServe.com) at 1-877-428-8844 or DCA directly at (404) 327-6882.