



Manatee County Special Needs Program

WHAT IS THE MEDICAL SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER?

The Manatee County Special Needs Program is a two-part program: (1) transportation assistance to a shelter and (2) the medical special needs shelter. Transportation assistance is available to any Manatee County resident who needs a ride to a general shelter. You must register before any pending storm for transportation assistance to a general shelter. We recommend that you apply early in the year, before hurricane season, to make sure that you get listed in the program.

The medical special needs shelter is available for people who need medical assistance and cannot stay at a general shelter but do not require hospital or nursing care. Transportation assistance is available to the medical special needs shelter. **You must apply for the medical special needs shelter each year.** Sending the application does not automatically grant entry into the medical special needs shelter. Sometimes your medical needs cannot be handled at the medical special needs shelter and you will need to work with your care team on what is best for you to do during a storm.

Remember that the medical special needs shelter is NOT a hospital. Public school buildings are used for the medical special needs shelter. There are no hospital beds or doctors. You must bring all of your medicine, bedding, and medical supplies with you. You must be able to use a cot, chair, or floor mattress. Because shelter life can be very difficult, you should try to make plans to stay with family or friends before applying for the medical special needs shelter.

To apply for the medical special needs shelter:

- Fill out the printed form and mail it back to us at Manatee County
Emergency Management: PO Box 1000, Bradenton, FL 34206
- Or you can fill out this form online: <https://snr.floridadisaster.org/>



Manatee County Special Needs Program

WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE?

The Manatee County Special Needs Program is a two-part program: (1) transportation assistance and (2) the medical special needs shelter.

Transportation assistance is available to any Manatee County resident who needs a ride to a general shelter. You must register for transportation assistance to a general shelter. We recommend that you apply early in the year, before hurricane season, to make sure that you get listed in the program.

Transportation assistance is a free service but **you must register each year, well before an emergency event.** Should there be an emergency requiring an evacuation, Manatee County will pick you up in a bus or handy bus and take you to a general shelter.

Remember to bring your medicine, medical supplies, clothing, cots, blankets, and other personal items with you to the shelter. Public school buildings are used for the general shelter. There are no private rooms and bedding may not be provided so be sure to bring your own supplies.

To apply for transportation assistance to a general shelter:

- Fill out the printed form and mail it back to us at Manatee County
Emergency Management: PO Box 1000, Bradenton, FL 34206



Manatee County Special Needs Program

WHAT IS AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION?

The Manatee County Special Needs Program includes providing transportation by an ambulance to a hospital or nursing home if required by a tropical storm or hurricane evacuation.

Manatee County cannot make “reservations” at hospitals or nursing homes. If your doctor wants you to be hospitalized during a storm, **YOU** must make all the plans with the hospital or nursing home before hurricane season. The ambulance transportation program should **NOT** be your first option or only option for evacuation. You should work with your medical care team (your doctor and home health providers) to make sure you have suitable options for safe sheltering during a storm.

You must register each year for ambulance transportation. **Ambulance transportation is extremely limited and will not be available to everyone.** We recommend that you apply for ambulance transportation early in the year, before hurricane season, to make sure that you get listed in the program.

To apply for ambulance transportation to a hospital or nursing home:

- Fill out the printed form and mail it back to us at Manatee County
Emergency Management: PO Box 1000, Bradenton, FL 34206



EVACUATION CHECKLIST FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

You and your caregiver **MUST** be ready before an evacuation order is issued. Evacuations must be complete well before a storm arrives to make sure everyone is safe. A representative from Manatee County will call you to give you an estimated time of your transportation pick-up.

DO NOW: Make plans for your pets to be taken care of by your veterinarian, family or friend. Only as a last resort, dogs and cats will be allowed in the designated pet area of the Medical Special Needs Shelter.

WHEN EVACUATING: Call your caregiver and family members including those out of state to inform them of your evacuation plans. Remember you **MUST** bring your caregiver with you to the medical special needs shelter. Have all pets taken care of before your evacuation transportation arrives. If necessary, the emergency workers will try to assist you with your pets if you must bring them to the shelter.

Pack a bag and be ready to go with:

- Medications for 3 weeks, list of medications, & name of doctor(s)
- Medical orders including "Do Not Resuscitate" order, if applicable
- Your walker, wheel chair and other medical equipment
- Oxygen Concentrator (if on oxygen), bring all equipment. Emergency oxygen will be provided only at the Special Needs Shelter
- Clean clothes for three days
- Extra eye glasses
- Blankets and pillows
- Personal hygiene items
- House keys and car keys
- Personal phone book or list of important numbers
- Important papers, including identification, sealed in zip-lock bags
- Cot and bedding
- Reading material
- Non-perishable snacks
- Non-perishable food items if you require a special diet



PET SHELTER CHECKLIST FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Pet sheltering requirements and rules are important during disaster situations. Your cooperation is very important to make the shelter as safe as possible for everyone.

Pet(s) must arrive with a carrier or cage. Cages will **not** be available on site.

Pet(s) must remain in carrier (except at scheduled exercise and potty break times when the weather is safe to go outside).

Owners must provide pet food and other pet supplies as needed.

Owners must provide certification that each pet is current with rabies vaccination.

Owners will not allow other people in the shelter to handle or approach any pets.

Owners are responsible for the care, feeding, and handling of their own pets.

Pet survival kit for Pet Friendly Shelters:

- Proper ID collar and rabies license tag
- Carrier or cage
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Food supply to last about three days
- Special care instructions
- Newspapers/plastic bags for waste disposal
- Toys and comfort items
- Muzzles, if necessary
- First aid supplies
- Manual can opener
- Proper ID on all belongings