

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lee County closes Multi-Agency Resource Center; assistance remains available for tornado recovery effort**

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 31, 2022 – Lee County on Tuesday will close its Multi-Agency Resource Center that was set up to aid residents impacted by the Jan. 16 tornado, but assistance from county staff and partners will remain available.

Lee County staff and partnering agencies have successfully completed about 170 needs assessments and have collaboratively developed an outreach plan for individuals that will continue.

Tornado-impacted residents who did not make it to the center but need assistance can call 239-533-7900 or email [ionatornado@leegov.com](mailto:ionatornado@leegov.com).

Impacted residents who need to rebuild post-storm can contact the Lee County Department of Community Development. Each damaged home presents a unique situation. Residents are encouraged to talk with staff before beginning to rebuild and should ensure any contractors they hire are licensed and insured.

Staff is available to guide residents through the process. Call 239-533-8329 and select Option 2; email [eConnect@leegov.com](mailto:eConnect@leegov.com) or visit [www.leegov.com/dcd](http://www.leegov.com/dcd).

The storm destroyed 74 homes; another 61 homes incurred major damage.

The Multi-Agency Resource Center opened Jan. 22 and will close at noon Tuesday. The center was located at the Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center in south Fort Myers near the impacted area.

It featured organizations such as the American Red Cross, Lee County Human & Veteran Services, the Lee County Tax Collector, the Salvation Army, Harry Chapin Food Bank, Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, United Way, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church Disaster Recovery Ministry, Catholic Charities, Area Agency on Aging, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, the Florida Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Florida Department of Financial Services.

State and federal partners continue to mobilize long-term recovery assistance. Updates will be provided at [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm) as they become available.

Lee County residents not impacted by the storm but in need of agency services should call Lee County Human & Veteran Services at 239-533-7930 or visit <https://www.leegov.com/dhs/assistance>.