



ALABAMA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

Department of Postsecondary Education  
Bradley Byrne, Chancellor

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**For Immediate Release: Clarification on FEMA payments**  
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## **Chancellor clarifies news on FEMA payments to colleges for Hurricane Gustav sheltering**

**MONTGOMERY** – The Alabama Emergency Management Agency announced Wednesday that it has transferred an initial payment of \$714,000 to the Department of Postsecondary Education to reimburse expenses that two-year colleges incurred while housing more than 8,300 evacuees from Louisiana.

Community colleges billed the Federal Emergency Management Agency for expenses. AEMA received the funds from FEMA and transmitted them to the Department of Postsecondary Education last week.

"We are certainly glad to receive this partial reimbursement on the nearly \$2.3 million total costs we incurred in this important sheltering operation," Chancellor Bradley Byrne said, adding that no college has been paid yet. "This initial payment represents a lump sum advance based on estimates submitted by the colleges. FEMA must now approve allowable amounts based on actual documentation before we can pay the colleges," Byrne said.

Gene Murphree, vice chancellor for Fiscal Services, said, "The original total estimated amount was \$2,264,115. Of this amount, \$1,428,422 was for claims to be paid by Alabama EMA, and the balance to be paid by Louisiana EMA."

Murphree said that 17 completed college requests have been sent to State EMA so far, and seven more claims are still under way.

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