



# Special Needs Shelter

## West Florida High ▪ Pensacola, FL

**You Must Pre-Qualify for the Special Needs Shelter**

**Visit [www.BeReadyEscambia.com](http://www.BeReadyEscambia.com) or call 471-6400**

**What is the Special Needs Shelter?**

- A shelter of last resort for persons with special medical needs
- Nurses and doctors are available for medical emergencies
- The shelter provides for very basic needs during an emergency

**Size of Shelter**

200 beds for clients and their caregivers

**Who Qualifies?**

Residents who are able to live on-their-own but rely on nursing assistance for some medical help or electrical power for their medical equipment.

Pre-Qualifying: It is recommended that the public pre-qualify for the Special Needs Shelter by calling Escambia County Bureau of Public Safety at 471-6400. However, it is often not necessary to pre-qualify if a tropical storm or hurricane is imminent.

**What to Bring**

- 1.) **A caregiver is required;** your caregiver helps you with meals and using the bathroom.
- 2.) Medications, medical equipment, and food for special diets
- 3.) Bedding (sheet, blanket and pillow). The shelter provides a military-style cot without bedding
- 4.) If possible, a fully charged cell phone. The shelter does not have a public phone.

**Location**

- West Florida High School, Building 25 and 26
- 2400 Longleaf Drive, Pensacola, 32526
- Travel north on Highway 90 to Pine Forest Road. Continue on Pine Forest Road. Take a left onto Longleaf and follow signs to the Shelter

**Type of Care**

Health Department nurses monitor vital signs, administer medication when necessary, and respond to signs of distress.

**Before Evacuating to**

- 1.) Tell your home health care agency where you are going. Bring the name and phone number of your home health agency to the shelter.

- the Shelter**
- 2.) Get extra supplies of oxygen from your medical equipment provider.
  - 3.) Tell your out-of-town family about your emergency plan.
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- Transportation**
- The bus system will provide transportation if a resident qualifies for the special needs shelter.
  - For transportation to the Special Needs Shelter, residents can call ECAT at 595-3228 – and remember to request a wheelchair accessible vehicle if needed.
  - ECAT will only transport from the home directly to the shelter.
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- Other Shelters**
- Residents who do not qualify for the Special Needs Shelter, may be able to stay at a general shelter. General shelters do not have medical staff but they can help the elderly who:
- Use a walker, wheelchair, or cane
  - Take their medications without help from a nurse
  - Don't need electrical power for their medical equipment
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