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WTC aid deadline pushed to Jan.

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The feds extended the deadline to apply for World Trade Center relief yesterday to include the second wave of victims — those hit by the economic fallout of the disaster.

Families, individuals and business owners now have until Jan. 10 to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a variety of financial aid. The original deadline was today.

Ron Sherman, a FEMA spokesman, said that even two months after the attacks, the agency was still getting 500 to 600 new applications a day.

But requests have shifted from people in lower Manhattan forced from their homes to homeowners in Staten Island or the Bronx who lost their jobs because of the attacks and now are at risk of losing their homes, Sherman said.

"In the past two weeks, there has been a shift," said Sherman. "Now it's more the economic impact."

Unemployed New Yorkers said yesterday that relief was needed. Hundreds have been waiting in line for help at FEMA's Worth St. office and at Pier 94.

Those seeking unemployment help far outnumber survivors seeking benefits, and complain of a two-tier system — a quick, efficient one for victims' families, and a slow, cumbersome one for the jobless.

"We wait and wait. Our line never seems to move, but the victims' families are taken care of much faster," said Jose Morales, 27, an unemployed dishwasher who has yet to get help.

Sherman said there were not two systems.

"We are treating everyone with the same care," he said.

But the unemployment lines could be speeded up if people seeking benefits first called FEMA to register, he said. The FEMA registration number is (800) 462-9029, and it is staffed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

FEMA has information about more than 100 kinds of funds. The following are the three largest:

- FEMA's housing and rental assistance, which can help with rent or a mortgage for up to 18 months.
- The Small Business Administration loan program, which can provide loans of up to $240,000 for homeowners, $40,000 for renters and $1.5 million for business owners.
- A state-administered individual and family grant program.