

Bulletin for ALL TSA Employees – 12/6/2018

Thrift Savings Plan Temporarily Changes Financial Hardship Withdrawal Rules for Hurricane Florence or Hurricane Michael Impacted Participants

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has temporarily changed the financial hardship withdrawal rules for participants affected by Hurricane Florence or Hurricane Michael.

From December 4, 2018, until March 5, 2019, the TSP will:

1. Treat any Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request it receives as a qualifying hardship, and
2. Waive its rule prohibiting employee contributions for six months after taking a hardship withdrawal.

However, one of the following statements must apply to the participant:

1. Your primary residence or place of employment is located in a covered disaster area and has incurred a loss as a result of Hurricane Florence or Hurricane Michael; or
2. Your hardship withdrawal will be used to assist an eligible family member (as determined by IRS eligibility rules) who lives or works in a covered disaster area and who has incurred a loss as a result of Hurricane Florence or Hurricane Michael.

Additionally, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- You must be actively employed as a Federal civilian or a member of the uniformed services.
- You must complete Form TSP-76, *Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request*.
- You must write “Hurricane Florence” or “Hurricane Michael” at the top of page 1 above the name of the form.
- You must check the “Personal Casualty Loss” box on page 2, Item 18 of your request form as the reason for requesting financial hardship.
- Your request must be received in the TSP’s office by March 5, 2019 and (in compliance with IRS guidelines) your distribution must occur before March 15, 2019. Any Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request forms received after March 5, 2019 will be processed as a standard hardship withdrawal, and your TSP contributions will automatically stop for six months.

If you want to stop your TSP contributions, please submit your request through the Employee Personnel Page (EPP), or click [here](#).

This rule change is not retroactive and all other Form TSP-76 rules apply. Participants may only receive one hardship withdrawal under this change. If you have questions about this change, call the toll-free ThriftLine at 1-877-968-3778. Outside the U.S. and Canada, please call 404-233-4400 (not toll free).

Questions?

Please contact the HCAccess Help Desk by phone at 1–877–872–7990, by fax at 1-877-872-7993, or by email at this [link](#). Live agents are available 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, with additional hours for recruitment calls only from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST Saturday and 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST Sunday. Visit our website at this [link](#), and check out HCAccess online at this [link](#).