



FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD
77K Street, NE Washington, DC 20002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD
ANNOUNCES A RELAXATION OF HARDSHIP WITHDRAWAL
RULES TO HELP VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MATTHEW**

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB) announced today that it has made a temporary change to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) hardship withdrawal rules to help victims of Hurricane Matthew pursuant to the guidance issued by the Internal Revenue Service on October 21.

Beginning today, the TSP will treat any *Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request* (Form TSP-76) received until March 8, 2017 as qualifying for a hardship withdrawal if the participant writes “Hurricane Matthew” at the top of the form and checks the block on the form for personal casualty on page 2, Item 18 of the form. The distributions must occur before March 15, 2017 to qualify for this treatment.

The participant should write “Hurricane Matthew” at the top of the form and check the “personal casualty” box on the TSP-76. The TSP will then waive the rule that prohibits a participant from making employee contributions for 6 months after taking a hardship withdrawal. This will allow an employee to continue to make contributions to the TSP and receive the employer match (if eligible). This temporary change will not be effective retroactively. For more information, please go to <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/plan/planNews.shtml>.

This change is similar to the ongoing relief provided to victims of the Louisiana Flooding. Participants who are victims of the Louisiana Flooding may continue to apply for hardship withdrawals until January 10, 2017, by writing “Louisiana Flooding” at the top of the Form TSP-76. Distributions for the victims of the Louisiana Flooding must be disbursed by January 17, 2017.

The TSP is a retirement savings plan for federal employees; it is similar to the 401(k) plans offered by many private employers. As of August 2016, TSP assets totaled approximately \$482 billion, and retirement savings accounts were being maintained for over 4.9 million TSP participants. Participants include federal civilian employees in all branches of government, employees of the U.S. Postal Service, and members of the uniformed services. Additional information can be found at www.tsp.gov.

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