

## Hurricane Helene Recovery: Community Resources for West Florida

Below are community and state resources for people recovering from Hurricane Helene.  
Please refer back to this document as information changes.

If you need help with this list or understanding what resources are available in your community, please call our **Florida Blue Center community specialists**. We can help with community and social services like food programs, transportation services, financial and housing assistance programs, community support resources, and many other types of relief programs.

**We're ready to help members and everyone in the community.** Visit one of our local [Florida Blue Centers](#) or call 1-877-352-5830, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. or Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Resources West Florida Region

Here are important resources for North Florida residents:

- [FEMA](#)
- [American Red Cross – Central Florida Region](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)
- [CDC: Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)
- [Meal on Wheels – Find a Provider](#)
- [United Way of Central Florida 211](#)
- [Heart of Florida United Way 211](#)
- [Goodwill – Central Florida](#)
- [Florida Disaster](#)

### Crisis Cleanup

If you need assistance with hurricane damage, call the **Crisis Cleanup Hotline** at 1-800-451-1954. You will be connected to volunteers from local relief organizations, community groups and faith communities.

### Mental Health Resources

Call or text the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) at **1-800-985-5990**. The national hotline provides free 24/7, crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

Family Resource Support Center **1-850-300-HOPE (4673)** to speak to a Hope Navigator.

- The Family Resource Support Center serves as a central hub for the community to access needed resources and supports. The center has staff on site, including Hope Navigators, behavioral health partners who specialize in disaster recovery response, and public benefit eligibility specialists to help individuals and families. The Department will continue to work with local organizations and partners across the

state to expand the array of resources that are available to help meet the needs of impacted families.

**Hillsborough County Resources**

- Here are some important links for Hillsborough County:
- [After the Storm Debris Clean-up](#)
  - [Evacuation Shelters](#)
  - [Food Pantry](#)
  - [Special Needs Emergency Registry](#)
  - [Disaster Assistance](#)
  - Emergency Management: **813-272-6600**

**Pinellas County Resources**

- Here are some important links for Pinellas County:
- [After the Storm Debris Clean-up](#)
  - [Evacuation Shelters](#)
  - [Food Pantries](#)
  - [Sandbag Locations](#)
  - [Special Needs Emergency Registry](#)
  - [Disaster Assistance](#)

**Collier County Resources**

- <https://uwcollierkeys.org/get-help/>
- <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/government/county-manager-operations/divisions/emergency-management>
  - <https://harrychapinfoodbank.org/>
  - <https://mealsofhope.org/pantry/>
- <https://catholiccharitiesdov.org/Naples-Food-Pantry>
  - <https://svdpnnaples.org/>

**Lee County Resources**

- Here are some important links for Lee County:
- [Evacuation Shelter](#)
  - Hurricane Preparation Lee <https://www.leegov.com/hurricane>
  - [After the Storm](#)
  - [Food Pantries](#)
  - <https://unitedwaylee.org/united-way-211/>



**Call:** 211

**Text:** Your zip code to 898211

**Chat:** [online here](#)

United Way's 2-1-1 is Florida's 24/7/365 information and assistance hotline during natural disasters, and throughout the year, for connecting with community resources, like:

- Shelter information and housing assistance
- Sandbags, tarps and other storm supplies
- Evacuation routes and road closures
- Food, clothing and hygiene locations
- Special needs registry and medical supplies
- Emotional and crisis support

To search for resources in your area using our online database, visit [UW211Help.org](http://UW211Help.org).

## After Storm Resources Information

### Emergency food pantry locations

**Phone:** 407-295-1066

**Website:** [Feed Hope Now](#)

### Red Cross Shelters

**Phone:** 407-894-4141 (local) or 800-733-2767 (Toll Free National)

**Website:** [Red Cross: Find an open shelter](#)

### FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Apply for assistance:** [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)

**Phone:** 800-621-3362

**Website:** [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)

**Twitter:** [@FEMA](#)

### Utility Service Provider: Florida Public Service Commission

Program provides an [online locator tool](#) for public, private and city utility providers.

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to staff our state's shelters and support other disaster relief organizations.

- Heart of Florida United Way – Disaster Response Team. [Sign up here.](#)
- Volunteer Florida – Disaster Action Team Responders, Disaster Mental Health Services, and Food Banks. [Sign up here.](#)

### Disaster Distress Helpline

Provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. **Call 800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs.**

## Florida Hurricane Resources

## Florida Disaster State Emergency Response Team (SERT)

**Website:** [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org)

**Phone:** 1-800-342-3557

**Twitter:** [@FLsert](https://twitter.com/FLsert)

**Facebook:** [@FloridaSERT](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSERT)

**Alerts:** Text **FLPrepares** to 888777 to have alerts sent straight to your phone

## FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Phone:** 1-800-621-3362

**Website:** [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)

**Twitter:** [@FEMA](https://twitter.com/FEMA)

## Florida Special Needs Registry

**Website:** [FloridaDisaster.org/snr/](http://FloridaDisaster.org/snr/)

**Phone:** 800-374-9689

**Special needs by county:** [FloridaDisaster.org/disability/specialneeds](http://FloridaDisaster.org/disability/specialneeds)

## Additional Resources

5-1-1

Contact 5-1-1 for information about traffic and evacuation routes.

**Call:** 5-1-1

**Website:** [fl511.com](http://fl511.com)

**Twitter** [@fl511\\_central](https://twitter.com/fl511_central)

**Text alerts:** [fl511.com/personalizedservices](http://fl511.com/personalizedservices)

**App:** [Find here](#)

## GasBuddy

Check GasBuddy for live updates on fuel availability

**App:** [GasBuddy.com/app](http://GasBuddy.com/app)

## Price Gouging Hotline

Report instances of price gouging on hurricane supplies

**Phone:** 1-866-966-7226

## Ready.Gov

Step-by-step plan on how to prepare from days to hours before a hurricane: [Ready.gov/hurricanes](http://Ready.gov/hurricanes)

Manatee Co.

<https://extreme-weather-dashboard-manateegis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Sarasota Co,

<https://guidewell->

[my.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/personal/wilma\\_hamilton\\_bcbsfl\\_com/Documents/Microsoft%20Teams%200Chat%20Files/Sarasota%20County%20Emergency%20Management%20\(1\).pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=HQqrPD](https://my.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/personal/wilma_hamilton_bcbsfl_com/Documents/Microsoft%20Teams%200Chat%20Files/Sarasota%20County%20Emergency%20Management%20(1).pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=HQqrPD)