

Pinellas County: Hurricanes Irma and Maria Response

The community of Pinellas County offers resources to those affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

Individuals

Catholic Charities If you are facing an immediate emergency, such as a financial, home or family crisis because of Hurricanes Irma or Maria, please call Catholic Charities at (727) 893-1313. The office is located at 1213 16th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33705, Office Hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Disaster Distress Helpline The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Disaster Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990) remains open 24/7 for free help coping with the stress of the storm. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster.

FEMA Disaster Assistance Survivors of Hurricane Maria are encouraged to continue registering. If anyone registered in Puerto Rico and is now in Florida, they must update their information with FEMA and they should also check with FEMA on the status of their registration.

FEMA Disaster Assistance is offered to residents of Puerto Rico who were affected by Hurricane Maria. To receive assistance, they must [register online](#) for assistance from FEMA at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or through the FEMA app to avoid long wait times on the phone. If you call, it is recommended you call early or late to avoid waiting. The phone number for register for assistance is 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) while those who use TTY can call 1-800-462-7585. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EDT seven days a week.

Hurricane Maria survivors arriving from Puerto Rico can find information about resources in Pinellas County by contacting the [Hispanic Outreach Center](#) at (727) 445-9743; [Catholic Charities](#) at (727) 893-1313; [The Salvation Army](#) at (727) 446-4177, or 211 Tampa Bay Cares (dial 2-1-1).

A Clinic for Survivors of Hurricane Maria is held at the Hispanic Outreach Center every Thursday from 2-6 p.m. at the center, located at 612 Franklin St. Clearwater. Information on local resources will be available and agency representatives will help evacuees from Puerto Rico with issues such as health services, food programs, Medicaid, schools, banking and more. For more information, call the center at (727) 445-9734. www.hispanicoutreachcenter.org (For bus service, the PSTA Park Street Terminal is around the corner at Pierce and Park. Routes serving that facility are as follows: 18, 52, 60, 61, 65, 66L, 67, 73, 76, 78, 98, Jolley Trolley, Suncoast Beach Trolley.)

Legal Assistance is offered by [Gulfcoast Legal Services](http://gulfcoastlegal.org), a non-profit legal aid organization serving the Tampa Bay area. Services include FEMA assistance, landlord/tenant issues, public benefits, consumer protection/scams and domestic violence. For more information or to register, call (727) 821-0726 or visit their website at gulfcoastlegal.org. Se Habla Español.

Housing

[Florida Housing Search](http://www.FloridaHousingSearch.org) offers an extensive listing of available rental housing across Florida. You can search www.FloridaHousingSearch.org, email DIT@socialserve.com, or call toll-free at 877-428-8844. The status of available units listed on Florida Housing Search is updated frequently. If needed, call center specialists are available to provide assistance in conducting searches. Spanish-speaking operators are available.

Immediate Foreclosure Relief from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearance on foreclosures of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured home mortgages. HUD is also offering longer-term recovery assistance to survivors and impacted communities. For more information, visit HUD's website.

Individuals and Households Program is a FEMA program that provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs. To register for [FEMA assistance](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) programs, go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or use the FEMA App. If you do not have access to a computer or mobile device, call (800) 621-FEMA (3362) TTY 1-800-462-7585 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Businesses, Individuals and Non-Profits

[Extended IRS Deadlines](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/help-for-victims-of-hurricane-irma) Hurricane Irma victims in Florida have until Jan. 31, 2018, to file certain individual and business tax returns and make certain tax payments. The tax relief postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting on Sept. 4, 2017 in Florida. <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/help-for-victims-of-hurricane-irma>

Business/Employment

[Employ Florida](http://Irma.employflorida.com/vosnet/default.aspx) has opened the Hurricane Irma Recovery Jobs Portal, with employment that is available as a result of the hurricane. Go to Irma.employflorida.com/vosnet/default.aspx.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Program offers assistance to businesses and residents whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to Irma. For more information or to [file for DUA](http://www.floridajobs.org/) <http://www.floridajobs.org/> or call (800) 385-3920.

Volunteers & Donations

[Tampa Bay Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund](http://www.cftampabay.org/disaster/), a collaboration of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, Pinellas Community Foundation, United Way of Citrus County, United Way of Hernando, United Way of Pasco and United Way Suncoast. <http://www.cftampabay.org/disaster/>

[National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters](http://www.nvoad.org) (NVOAD) at www.nvoad.org

[Volunteer in Florida](http://www.volunteerflorida.org) at or call (800) FL-Help-1

[Florida Disaster Fund.org](https://www.volunteerflorida.org/emergency-management/#df) to support individuals at <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/emergency-management/#df>

[How to Volunteer](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/09/09/how-volunteer-hurricane-irma-disaster-relief) For Hurricane Irma Disaster Relief at <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/09/09/how-volunteer-hurricane-irma-disaster-relief>

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Pinellas County Emergency Management*