

Florida Hurricane Recovery

Jan. 15, 2025 (Distributed M, W, F)

Key Messages

- FEMA Mitigation specialists are at the CVS in New Port Richey (Pasco County) and the Lowe’s in Tarpon Springs (Pinellas County) through Jan. 18, 2025.
 - These specialists can offer free improvement tips and proven methods for rebuilding in a way that can prevent or lessen damage from future disasters.
 - Insurance specialists are also available to answer NFIP questions and Disaster Survivor Assistance team members are present to help survivors apply for FEMA assistance.
- As of Jan. 15, the state of Florida has removed 34.6 million cubic yards of debris. This number of debris equals to more than 213,844 tractor trailer loads.
- Survivors who applied for FEMA assistance will receive a decision letter in the mail or via email. If survivors disagree with the decision about their eligibility, they can appeal within 60 days from the date on that letter. If survivors have questions about their letter or how to appeal, they can call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.
- FEMA may provide financial assistance to help displaced survivors rent temporary housing.
- FEMA Rental Assistance is intended to cover the monthly rent amount, which may include a security deposit, at a place other than a damaged home. The rental can be near the survivor’s job, home, school and place of worship. The assistance may include essential utilities such as gas, oil, trash, sewer, electricity, and water, but not cable or Internet.
- We encourage survivors to be aware of fraud and scams and report any suspicious activity to local authorities. For more information, visit: [Be Alert to Fraud After Florida Hurricanes | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/be-alert-to-fraud-after-florida-hurricanes)
- In-person help with FEMA applications for assistance is still available at any Disaster Recovery Center in Florida. Centers are open in **four counties** to answer questions and provide access to resources from other agencies. All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology. To find center locations, go to [fema.gov/drc](https://www.fema.gov/drc) or text “DRC” and a Zip Code to 43362.
 - **DRCs:** Hernando and Pinellas



FEMA

- **MDRCs:** Manatee and Pasco

Individual Assistance

- To date, FEMA has approved a total of more than **\$1.28 billion** to help Floridians with losses from Milton, Helene and Debby, including:
 - **\$578.8 million** approved for Hurricane Milton
 - **\$648 million** approved for Hurricane Helene
 - **\$54.1 million** approved for Hurricane Debby
- **11,828** Households for a total of more than **28,606** people are checked in to Transitional Sheltering Assistance hotels and motels.

Transitional Sheltering Assistance

- Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) is available for Floridians displaced by Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton in 52 counties and for tribal members of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians. Residents in these counties who have applied for disaster assistance may be eligible to stay temporarily in a hotel or motel paid for by FEMA. Applicants do not need to request TSA. FEMA will notify them of their eligibility through an automated phone call, text message, and/or email. Survivors who have been approved for TSA can find hotel options here: [Transitional Sheltering Assistance \(TSA\)](#)

U.S. Small Business Administration

- **The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at SBA.gov/disaster. Disaster loan information and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

Additional Resources

- **Activate Hope:** Displaced survivors can apply for State Non-Congregate Sheltering by visiting the Activate Hope website at hopeflorida.com and filling out the Assistance Request Form or by calling the Hope Florida support line at 833-GET-HOPE (833-438-4673).
- **Florida 211:** Whether it's a natural or human-caused disaster, a mental health issue, searching for job training or a food pantry, Florida 211 connects people to help, with a caring human on the other end of the phone. It's a go-to, 24/7 free resource that can connect you with a wide range of social services and resources, including food, housing, utilities payment assistance, health care, transportation, childcare, employment opportunities, mental health crises, disaster information and assistance, and more.
- **FDEM Statewide Debris Dashboard:** [Debris Survey Results \(Milton\)](#).

- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):** If you lost your job or had a break in employment, self-employment, or business as a direct result of the recent hurricanes, visit [Disaster Unemployment Assistance - FloridaJobs.org](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/unemployment-assistance-florida-jobs) to learn about benefit money from Disaster Unemployment Assistance.
- **Clean & Sanitize:** FEMA may be able to provide up to \$300 in one-time financial assistance to help with cleanup. [Clean and Sanitize Assistance | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/clean-sanitize).
- **Multi-Agency Resource Centers:** Florida Division of Emergency Management and local communities are operating these centers to assist residents with storm recovery. FEMA specialists are available at most centers.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture/Farm Services Agency:** [emergency disaster designation declaration process-factsheet.pdf](https://www.farmers.gov/emergency-disaster-designation-declaration-process-factsheet.pdf)
- **FEMA & Citizenship:** You or a member of your household [must be U.S. citizen, non-U.S. citizen national or qualified non-citizen](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/citizenship) to apply for FEMA assistance.
- **FEMA Rumor Response:** Know what's true and what isn't. [Hurricane Rumor Response | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/rumor-response)
- [Small Business Hurricane Recovery Grant Program FAQs | U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](https://www.uschamber.com/small-business/hurricane-recovery-grant-program-faqs)
- [Mental health resources for Floridians](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/mental-health-resources)
- **For help with cleanup:** Call 833-GET HOPE
- [Tips for Mold Cleanup](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/mold-cleanup)
- **Florida Division of Emergency Management Updates:** [floridadisaster.org/disaster-updates/storm-updates/](https://www.floridadisaster.org/disaster-updates/storm-updates/)
- **Disaster Legal Hotline: 833-514-2940**