

Resource List for Dialysis Patients Impacted by Hurricanes

Financial Assistance

- The National Kidney Foundation of Florida’s (NKFF) Direct Aid Program assists patients with financial assistance to obtain food, medication, treatment related transportation and emergency assistance with housing and utility bills. For more information, visit [NKF Direct Aid](#).
- The American Kidney Fund (AKF) has opened its Disaster Relief Program to aid dialysis and post-transplant patients living in areas impacted by Hurricane Milton, many of whom are still recovering in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. To apply, visit the [Disaster Relief Grant Program | American Kidney Fund](#).
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a \$750 per household in Serious Needs Assistance, which is an initial payment available to cover immediate needs—like food, water, baby formula, medication, and other emergency supplies—shortly after a disaster declaration. For more information, visit [Serious Needs Assistance \(fema.gov\)](#).

Food Resources

- To locate a food bank in Florida, visit [Feeding Florida](#).
- All Faith Food Banks at [Food Finder—All Faiths Food Bank](#).
- Feeding Tampa Bay Find Food and Resources at [Find Food—Feeding Tampa Bay](#).

Free Legal Services

- Disaster Legal Services—Provides immediate temporary legal assistance to disaster survivors at no charge. For more information, visit [Disaster Legal Services \(americanbar.org\)](#).

Housing and Sheltering Resources

- Rebuilding Together is helping fund essential repairs and clean-up efforts like tarping damaged roofs, mucking and gutting flooded homes to prevent molding from growing, and removing debris. For more information, visit [Rebuilding Together](#).
- The U.S. Army Corp of Engineer’s Operation Blue **Roof** is managed by the Corps for FEMA. Operation Blue Roof provides homeowners in disaster areas with fiber-reinforced plastic sheeting to cover their damaged roofs until arrangements can be made for permanent repairs. Operation Blue Roof protects property, reduces temporary housing costs, and allows residents to remain in their homes while recovering from the storm. For more information, visit [Temporary Roofing > U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters > Bluroof](#).
- Displacement Assistance helps survivors who cannot return to home following a disaster by giving them up-front money to help with immediate housing needs. For more information, visit [Displacement Assistance: FEMA Quick Reference Guide](#).

- To repair or rebuild a homeowner's residence or support temporary housing needs through FEMA, visit [Assistance for Housing and Other Needs | FEMA.gov](#).
- Crisis Cleanup phone number: 844.965.1386

Insurance Resources and Special Accommodations

- **Special Enrollment Opportunities for Hurricane and Tropical Storm Victims:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will make available special enrollment periods for eligible individuals to enroll in coverage through the Federal Health Insurance Exchange. This gives people impacted by storms the opportunity to enroll in coverage if they miss their original special enrollment period. For more information, please visit the [CMS Hurricanes & Tropical Storms](#) webpage.
- **Disaster Toolkit and Support for State Medicaid and CHIP Agencies:** To prepare for current and future disasters, CMS has developed an inventory of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) flexibilities and authorities. This inventory is available to states when disasters occur to support Medicaid and CHIP operations. It also ensures continuity of coverage for people served through Medicaid and CHIP programs during times of crisis. For more information and to access the inventory and toolkit, visit the [Medicaid Disaster Response Toolkit](#).
- **Marketplace Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for Hurricane Victims:** When FEMA declares a Major or Emergency disaster event, a SEP exists for individuals under certain conditions. Specifically, those who reside in states served by HealthCare.gov and who miss their existing SEP or who miss enrollment during the Open Enrollment Period. These individuals are eligible for a SEP to enroll in Marketplace coverage. FEMA-emergency-affected individuals will have up to 60 days from the end of the FEMA-designated incident period to select a new Marketplace plan or make changes to their existing Marketplace plan. FEMA-emergency-affected individuals must contact the Marketplace Call Center at 1.800.318.2596 or TTY at 1.855.889.4325 and indicate they were eligible for an enrollment window but were unable to complete their enrollment due to a FEMA-designated emergency or disaster. For more information, please visit the [CMS Major Disaster Declarations by FEMA—SEPs, Termination of Coverage, and Payment Deadline Flexibilities Guidance of August 31, 2023](#).

Interpretation and Translation Assistance

- **Individuals in Need of Interpretation:** Recent natural disasters have demonstrated the importance of ensuring accessibility to health and human services for everyone living in the United States, including individuals in need of interpretation and translation services. To help first responders provide on-the-ground language assistance and communicate effectively during disasters and in accordance with federal civil rights laws, the HHS OCR offers a [plain-language checklist \(PDF\)](#), that includes recommendations, specific action steps, resources, and tips. It includes such items as to how to identify language needs in a disaster-impacted community to effectively utilizing interpreters. Additional information is available on the [HHS OCR website](#).

Medical Equipment

- **Medical Equipment and Supplies Replacements:** CMS will permit Medicare beneficiaries who have lost or realized damage to their durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies because of a storm to receive replacements of such items and services. This will help to ensure beneficiaries can continue to access

needed medical equipment and supplies they rely on daily. Medicare beneficiaries can contact 1.800.MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227) for assistance.

Medication

- Financial assistance programs to help with the cost of medication are at [NeedyMeds](#).

Mental Health

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides crisis counseling, information, and resources 24/7. Visit [Disaster Distress Helpline: Get Immediate Crisis Counseling and Support | SAMHSA](#).

Transportation

- Lyft has activated the Lyft Up Disaster Response Program to provide free and discounted rides to help those in affected areas travel to and from designated shelters with critical resources. Riders can use code **MILTONRELIEF24** for two rides up to \$25 to and from state-approved shelters.

U.S. Veterans Assistance

- Disaster Assistance and Resources for Veterans. Visit [Disaster Help | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#).

General Resources and Assistance Programs

- FEMA: The Disaster Assistance Improvement Program's (DAIP) mission is to provide disaster survivors with information, support, services, and a means to access and apply for disaster assistance through joint data-sharing efforts between federal, tribal, state, local, and private sector partners. For more information, visit [Home | disasterassistance.gov](#).
- U.S. Government Disaster Relief: [Disasters and emergencies | USAGov](#)
- American Red Cross: [Find An Open Shelter](#)
 - [Northern Florida Red Cross](#)
 - [Central Florida Red Cross](#)
 - [Southern Florida Red Cross](#)
 - [Red Cross Resource Directory](#)
 - If you need assistance finding friends and family due to the hurricanes, visit the [Red Cross Reunification webpage](#).
 - Main Phone Number: 800.733.2767
- Salvation Army Florida: Salvation Army disaster relief efforts focus on several core services. These services may be modified based on the magnitude of the disaster and adapted to meet the specific needs of individual survivors. For more information, visit [Help Disaster Survivors - Florida Division \(salvationarmyflorida.org\)](#).

- Hope Florida pulls together the private sector, nonprofits, and government resources to help Floridians get back on their feet following a natural disaster. This includes helping connect Floridians with outside resources to provide food, household goods, home repairs, and more. Fill out the [Hope Florida form](#) to request help.
- United Way: Provides resources such as caregiver resources, mental health, and more. For more information, visit [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

Important Updates and General Safety

- Wi-Fi: Spectrum said it is keeping open thousands of Wi-Fi hotspots, available to all users, around the Tampa Bay area and the rest of the state. [Here is a map of hotspot sites](#). To connect your device, the company said to look for the “SpectrumWiFi” network. Stores, including Walmart and Publix, have Wi-Fi and it is sometimes available from their parking lots.
- Boil Water Notices: [Boil Water Notices | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)
- Avoid Beaches and Pools Notice from Florida Health: [Immediate Release October 10, 2024](#)
- Information on Florida Power Outages: [Florida Power Outages Map](#)
- Publix Store Status—Check first to be sure they are open: [Publix Store Status](#)
- Winn Dixie Store Status: [Winn Dixie Store Status](#)
- GasBuddy—Find out who has fuel and power: [Gas Buddy](#)
- The Southwest Florida Healthcare Coalition [Resources webpage](#)
- [Florida Highway Patrol Live Traffic Crash and Road Condition Report](#): Reports are updated every five minutes.

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