

# Community Alliance



*of Citrus County*

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## Hurricane Irma Disaster Relief Information and Efforts--Citrus County

Hello everyone,

Below you will find a series of information blocks from various agencies regarding assistance for Hurricane Irma affected families. Because the need for information is great, the information provided to the Alliance is being copied and pasted here below. Please note if you are sharing information with clients, you may need to click on the link, and then copy the link from your web browser and repost when sending to others to ensure they are able to click on the links and have them work properly. If you have additional information, please send it to [facilitator@citrusalliance.org](mailto:facilitator@citrusalliance.org) and I will try to send another update tomorrow.



September 13, 2017

ACCESS Florida – Hurricane Irma

**(These statements are approved for public consumption. Customers should be directed to [www.myflorida.com/accessflorida](http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida) for the most updated information.)**

**September Early Release:**

September SNAP benefits were released to customers (who had not already received for September) statewide on 9/7 to assist customers with preparation for Hurricane Irma's landfall.

**Purchase of Hot Foods:**

Until 9/30, current SNAP customers have the option to purchase hot foods with their EBT card at participating Florida retailers. Customers should inquire first with the store to see if they are equipped to process hot food purchases. Some stores will not be able to offer this option. It is the retailer's decision to take part in this option. There is no list of stores who are or are not equipped.

**Office Closures September 13th:**

State Offices in the following counties are closed Wednesday 9/13 - Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Glades, Jefferson, Lake, Lee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach.

**Call Center Closures:**

The statewide customer call center is closed in Miami and Jacksonville Wednesday 9/13. Because of this closure, callers will experience longer than usual wait times.

**Emergency Shelter Information:**

Florida Division of Emergency Management information related to Irma (includes shelter info links, evacuation notices, closures, etc.) [www.floridadisaster.org/info/](http://www.floridadisaster.org/info/)

**Replacement of food lost in storm:**

The department is working on a plan to provide replacements to customers who lost food in the storm. Customers may submit forms for individual replacement of benefits and the requests will be reviewed as soon as possible.

**Disaster SNAP (Food for Florida):**

We are not taking applications for D-SNAP as of 9/13. State and federal emergency officials must assess the counties with the most damage to determine where Food for Florida could take place. More information will be provided when available.

**Recertification/Renewal of Benefits:**

The department is working to help customers who need to complete the recertification/renewal of their benefits in September. More information will be provided when available.

**Using your Florida EBT card out of state:**

Current Florida SNAP customers can use their EBT cards in other states. If a customer evacuated for the storm, they can use their EBT card to purchase food out of state. As of 9/13 the option to purchase hot foods with EBT cards is not available in other states.



# FEMA

## CITRUS NOW QUALIFIES FOR INDIVIDUAL FEMA ASSISTANCE

**ATLANTA** – Homeowners, renters and business owners in **Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Polk, St. Lucie, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia** counties may now apply for federal disaster assistance for uninsured and underinsured damage and losses resulting from Hurricane Irma. Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Putnam Sarasota, and St. Johns counties were previously designated for Individual Assistance, bringing the total to 37 counties.

To be eligible for federal aid under FEMA's Individual Assistance Program, storm damage and losses from the hurricane and flooding must have occurred as a result of Hurricane Irma, beginning Sept. 4.

Register with FEMA as soon as possible. **If you preregistered with FEMA, you do not have to apply again.** If you have phone and/or internet access, you may register:

- Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov), or
- On the [FEMA Mobile App](#), or by
- Calling **800-621-3362 (FEMA)**. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may also call **800-621-3362**. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a **TTY** may call **800-462-7585**.
- The toll-free numbers are open from **7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET, seven days a week.**
- Multilingual operators are available. Press 2 for Spanish and press 3 for other languages.

Don't be discouraged if you do not have access to telephone or internet service. Disaster survivor assistance specialists will soon be in local communities helping people register for assistance. Assistance for eligible survivors can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs. Long-term, low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also may be available to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. Contact your insurance company to file an insurance claim. FEMA does not duplicate insurance payments. However, you may still receive help after your insurance claims have been settled.

**On Sept. 10**, Florida received a federal major disaster declaration for Individual Assistance for Charlotte, Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties. All 67 Florida counties were designated for the Public Assistance Program (Categories A-G), including direct federal assistance.

**On Sept. 11**, Broward, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Palm Beach, Putnam, and St. Johns counties were added

for Individual Assistance.

**On Sept. 13,** Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Polk, St. Lucie, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia counties were added for Individual Assistance.



#### Update from the Community Food Bank of Citrus County

The CFB is just starting to receive Hurricane Irma Relief Assistance this week. The CFB is establishing the following key agencies to help with distributions and serve as Points of Distribution for us: Annie W Johnson Senior Center; Citrus County Family Resource Center; Citrus United Basket (CUB); Crystal River Church of God; Daystar Life Center; Shepherd of the Hills SOS Ministries; The Salvation Army - Citrus Corps; and We care Food Pantry. We chose these agencies because of their geographical location, size, physical capabilities, large number of clients they serve today, etc. We are doing the same thing in Northern Hernando County and selecting at least 3 to 4 of our agencies we service today. These include Jericho Road Ministries Brooksville; Joseph's House Brooksville; St Vincent de Paul; etc. Jesus Is Ministry in Levy County.

The products the CFB is just starting to receive related to Hurricane Irma Relief Assistance this week includes water, food products, MREs, etc. This assistance is coming from Feeding America Tampa Bay when available, out of state (three semis of water and other products coming starting Thursday), FEMA supplies committed to be coming later this week and early next week, etc. Because of our joint warehouse facilities, trucks, freezer and refrigeration equipment, etc. the CFB and We Care Food Pantry are teaming together to be central receiving and distribution facilities for Citrus County and surrounding counties if necessary.

Some products we have received so far and immediately distributed include food products to Salvation Army - Citrus Corps for serving hot meals to residents and First Responders. We are and will be receiving a variety of food products and most recently pallets of water, bananas, ice, etc. There will be more to come.



# DOING THE MOST GOOD<sup>SM</sup>

#### Update -- Salvation Army in Citrus County

Currently, the Salvation Army is working with the County, the Community Food Bank, existing shelters, schools, local churches, and other resources to get out meals for those in

need and supplies. They have been serving the Emergency Operations Center, as well as the Special Needs Shelter that was established at the Renaissance School and recently moved to Citrus Springs Community Center. They have been providing a hot meal to these special needs patients in addition to their normal feedings.

The Salvation Army is also focused on providing some relief to the hard hit areas of Citrus County, and is working to make connections with communities to go out with the Canteen and deliver supplies and food, in conjunction with the Community Food Bank of Citrus County. If you know of an area that needs attention such as water, supplies, food, etc. -- Please contact Major Phil Irish at the Salvation Army at 352-513-4960, ext. 6.



#### **Update from Daystar**

**ICE -- 10 lb. bags of ice cubes, for those without refrigeration due to a power outage.**

**WATER -- (tomorrow or Fri.) cases of bottled water for those with such need due to the hurricane.**

**Other than those items, Daystar will provide as usual food from our pantry, and we are waiving our once per month limit through October.**

**On Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. on our grounds, Salvation Army distributes cooked meals.**

**As usual clothing is given out for free twice a year per eligible household, and financial assistance once a year to prevent the shut off of a utility or an eviction from rental housing.**

