

Texas Joint Housing Solutions Working Group

Hurricane Harvey Survivor Resource List January 2019

Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey have many resources available to help them with recovery. Please see the resources available for different needs.

This list was put together through the efforts of the Texas Joint Housing Solutions Working Group, a collection of state and federal agencies and organizations who work to identify resources that can address temporary housing unmet needs and solutions which allow disaster survivors to transition to permanent housing.

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General Resources

If you have questions about your FEMA registration or to need to follow-up on an appeal: call the FEMA Helpline: 800-621-3362 (voice, 711 or VRS) or 800-462-7585 (TTY) 6 a.m.-10 p.m., 7 days a week.

If you need to request a disaster case manager, call 2-1-1 and provide your zip code to be referred to an organization in your area. You can also contact 2-1-1 for local information about food, housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment. How to reach 2-1-1:

- Dial 2-1-1
- Call 877-541-7905
- Visit www.211texas.org

If you need disaster recovery funding, contact the Texas General Land Office. Among other activities, the office is helping to help Texans recover from natural disasters. Visit <http://recovery.texas.gov> for more information.

You can get information about Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery online at:

- Hurricane Harvey disaster webpage at www.fema.gov/disaster/4332
- Texas Division of Emergency Management website at www.dps.texas.gov/dem
- Facebook at www.facebook.com/FEMAHarvey
- FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at twitter.com/FEMARegion6
- The Texas General Land Office's website at <http://texasrebuilds.com>
- The Texas General Land Office's Facebook account at facebook.com/txglo
- The Texas General Land Office's Twitter account at twitter.com/txglo
- The Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas' website at www.rebuildtexas.today

The Texas Recovery Office provides a monthly bulletin that features Hurricane Harvey recovery updates, information and resources. To read the current bulletin and sign up to receive future ones, go here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/2273705?reqfrom=share>

Crisis Support and Mental Healthcare Resources

If you are contemplating suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

- Call 800-273-TALK (8255) or TTY 800-799-4TTY (4889)
- Text “HOME” to 741741
- Red Nacional de Prevencion del Suicidio 888-628-9454

You can find multilingual, confidential post-disaster crisis support services 24 hours a day:

- Call 800-985-5990; 800-846-8517 (TTY)
- Text “TalkWithUs” (Spanish speakers text: “Hablanos”) to 66746
- Visit www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline

Veterans who need crisis support can call the VA Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255 or visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>. More information about Texas Mental Health Programs for Veterans can be found at <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/adult-mental-health/mental-health-program-veterans>.

If you or someone you know needs mental health services, visit <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-substance-use-resources/find-your-local-mental-health-or-behavioral-health-authority> to find the crisis hotline of the Local Mental Health Authority for your county.

If you want to consult online with volunteers trained and certified in crisis intervention, contact the Online Crisis Network at www.imalive.org/hotline/.

You can find low-cost treatment for anxiety and depression at <https://adaa.org/finding-help/treatment/low-cost-treatment>.

Parents or legal guardians seeking mental health help for minors can get help by telephone 24 hours a day. For information about mental health counseling services for children at and a link to local crisis hotlines visit <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/childrens-mental-health/mental-health-counseling-services-children>.

For tips on helping children and youth cope after a disaster or traumatic event visit <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/ADM86-1070R>.

If you would like to learn more about mental health resources and support in Texas, visit <https://mentalhealthtx.org>.

If you have been affected by domestic violence, visit <https://www.domesticshelters.org/help/tx> and click on the city closest to you to find out about services where you live.

If are a youth or adult experiencing the loss of a loved one, Bo’s Place offers free on-going grief support in the greater Houston area. For more information, visit <https://bosplace.org/en/what-we-do/>

Health Care and Nutrition Resources

If you are faced with a medical emergency: please dial 9-1-1.

If you need to find local food pantries, soup kitchens, food shelves, food banks and subsidized groceries in Texas visit <https://www.foodpantries.org/st/texas>.

If you need help with nutrition assistance, you may be eligible for SNAP food benefits. Learn more at <https://yourtexasbenefits.hhsc.texas.gov/programs/snap>.

You can learn how to find and use health insurance in Texas at <http://www.texashealthoptions.com>.

If you need information about the Affordable Care Act and how to sign up for a health care plan in Texas visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/>.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding and need information or help, visit <https://texaswic.org/>. WIC also offers programs for infants and children up to their fifth birthday.

If you need immediate basics such as food and medicine, or have long-term needs like trauma counseling, visit <https://jewishfederations.fedwebpreview.org/crisis-relief>

If you need food, clothing, and essential items, contact The Helping Place by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/bunahelpingplace> or calling 409-994-2247.

If you need food, clothing, or financial assistance, contact Big Sandy Agape House by visiting https://www.facebook.com/pg/Big-Sandy-Agape-House-230863404019937/about/?ref=page_internal.

If you need free food and groceries, prescription medications, assistance with rent or utilities, call God's Unchanging Hands, Inc. at 409-423-4554.

If you need nonperishable foods, or financial assistance with utilities, medication and clothing, call Caring is Sharing at 409-283-5800.

Housing Resources

Look for affordable housing options and housing resources available through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Call 512-475-3800 or visit:

<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>.

You can do a subsidized apartment search through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which offers programs to assist both homeowners and renters:

www.hud.gov/states/texas

You can find post-hurricane housing resources from Texas Apartment Association by region, including guidance for renting in Texas: www.taa.org/renters/helpful-info/

You can find reduced and lower rent apartments using these databases:

- <http://hrc-ic.tdhca.state.tx.us/hrc/VacancyClearinghouseSearch.m>
- <https://apps.hud.gov/apps/section8/step2.cfm?state=TX,Texas>
- <http://texashousingcounselor.org/>
- <https://affordablehousingonline.com/housing-search/Texas>

If you would like to view the directory of public housing agencies in Texas, visit

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA_Contact_Report_TX.pdf.

You can search for rental homes and apartments in Texas by zip code, type of home and price at:

- Call Zillow at 206-470-7000 or visit www.zillow.com/rent/
- Call Apartments.com at 888-658-7368 or visit www.apartments.com/

If you are a homeless young adult age 18-22 who has aged out of the child welfare system, you may be eligible to participate in a program through DePelchin Children's Center which offers support at locations throughout the Houston area and across Texas. Some may be eligible to participate in the TAGS Program which offers temporary residence. For more information visit <https://www.depelchin.org/transitioning-to-adulthood-through-guidance-and-support/>

If you are a seasonal farmworker in need of resources, including housing, Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET Inc.) provides help with employment, training, and emergency and other supportive services, including housing services. For more information visit

<https://www.metinc.org/>

If you need a housing planning guide, download the Permanent Housing Plan checklist at

<https://go.usa.gov/xnE88>

If you have a record of a felony conviction and are looking for housing in Texas, go to <https://www.jobsforfelonshub.com/housing-for-felons/texas/> for a list of organizations and resources to help you search for felon-friendly housing.

Qualified homeowners can get help to repair, rehabilitate, or rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey from the Texas General Land Office. Learn about the Homeowner Assistance Program at <http://recovery.texas.gov/hap/index.html>

If you are looking for housing counseling from entities approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), you may search by city at <https://apps.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=TX>. These entities provide services for both homeowners and renters, including budget counseling, mortgage default counseling, rental housing counseling, and services for homeless.

If you need public housing assistance or would like specific information about public housing programs such as housing choice vouchers, contact your local public housing authority. Visit https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts and click on the map of Texas at the bottom for a list.

If you are looking for transitional housing because you need a short-term place to live after a crisis such as homelessness or domestic violence, visit <https://www.transitionalhousing.org/state/texas>.

Financial Resources

If you need monthly cash payments to help pay for food, clothing, housing, utilities, and other basic living needs, and you are caring for related children age 18 and younger, you may qualify for Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.hhsc.texas.gov/programs/tanf/>

If you need or have applied for low-interest disaster loan from U. S. Small Business Administration, you may call them at 800-659-2955 or visit www.sba.gov/disaster.

Homeowners assisted by the Federal Housing Administration can find mortgage relief options by calling FHA at 800-225-5342 or visiting www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/sfh/nsc/qaho0121.

For information about mortgage servicers offering special options for those impacted by disasters, call Fannie Mae at 800-232-6643 or visit: www.knowyouroptions.com/relief.

If you have questions about insurance: contact the Texas Department of Insurance Consumer Help Line: 800-252-3439 or <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/>.

If you have finance-related questions: The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants offers information for survivors with finance-related questions about filing insurance claims, government assistance and employer responsibility after a disaster. Call 888-777-7077 or visit: <http://blog.aicpa.org/2017/09/help-after-harvey-disaster-resources.html#sthash.lnSi7oTl.dpbs>.

Learn how to plan for financial mitigation as part of disaster planning and recovery at <https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/get-help/pdfs/disasters-and-financial-planning-guide.PDF>.

If you need nonperishable foods, or financial assistance with utilities, medication and clothing, call Caring is Sharing at 409-283-5800.

If you need housing counseling and financial services, you may look by city for housing counseling entities approved by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at <https://apps.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=TX>. These entities provide a variety of services for homeowners and renters, including budget counseling, mortgage default counseling, rental housing counseling, and services for the homeless.

If you are thinking about filing bankruptcy, Upsolve can help you file paperwork and find an attorney. For more information, visit <https://upsolve.org/>

Employment and Training Resources

If you are looking for a job in Texas, visit <https://workintexas.jobs/> to post your resume, search job listings (including all state agency jobs), get employer contact information to apply for jobs and find out about other employment services, including where to get in-person help.

If you are a Harvey survivor seeking job matching and employment services, visit Disaster Recovery Resources: twc.state.tx.us/hurricane-harvey-resources#informationForJobSeekers.

If you are a Harvey survivor seeking job tips, resources and support services, visit the Texas Workforce Commission website at <https://www.twc.texas.gov/>

If you are interested in a training program to learn the construction trade, but have a day job, the Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council offers night apprenticeships. Call 713-926-4433 or visit <https://www.hgcbctc.com/apprentices.html>.

If you are a youth looking for vocational training, the Gulf Coast Trades Center offers special programs for automotive, building trades, business information management, culinary arts, and horticulture, with post-training support for one year. Learn more at <http://www.gctc.us/vocational-training.html>.

If you have a significant barrier to employment or come from a low-income background, SERJobs in the Gulf Coast Region provides training, tools, and knowledge to gain sustainable employment. SER works with individuals returning from the criminal justice/corrections system; veterans transitioning to civilian workforce; and youth 16-24 who need resources, education, and employment assistance. Learn more at <https://serhouston.org/programs-and-services/>.

If you are a migrant or seasonal farmworker in need of education or vocational training, Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET Inc.) provides help to Texas farmworkers on employment, training, and other supportive services, including housing services. Learn more at <https://www.metinc.org/texas>.

If you have a record of a felony conviction and are looking for work, go to <https://www.jobsforfelonshub.com/jobs-for-felons/> to research resources including jobs by city and state, and list of companies that hire felons.

If you are a Texan looking for a job in Southeast Texas, SERJobs may help educate and equip you with skills to overcome barriers to employment. For more information, visit <https://serhouston.org/ser-about-page>.

If you need technology skills training and professional development tailored to business' needs, Per Scholas creates opportunities for people who work hard to build better lives by helping its graduates find employers who need their skillset. For more information, visit <https://perscholas.org>

Regional Workforce offices post job fairs and job training opportunities on Facebook:

Workforce Solutions Southeast	facebook.com/wfs.southeast/
Gulf Coast Workforce Board	facebook.com/advancemycareer/
Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas	facebook.com/wfsdet/
Workforce Solutions East Texas	facebook.com/WorkforceSolutionsEastTexas/
Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley	facebook.com/WorkforceSolutionsBrazosValley/
Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent	facebook.com/WorkforceSolutionsGoldenCrescent
Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend	https://www.facebook.com/workforcesolutionscb/
Workforce Solutions Alamo	facebook.com/WSASanAntonio/
Workforce Solutions Capital Area	facebook.com/WFSCapitalArea/

Legal Resources

If you are a Harvey survivor who needs legal services, contact the Disaster Legal Services Texas Harvey Hotline at 800-504-7030 or visit www.disasterlegalaid.org/txhurricaneharvey.

If you need free legal help, Lone Star Legal Aid serves low-income and underserved individuals in 72 counties in Texas at 13 offices throughout east, southeast, and northeast Texas. Lone Star Aid assists Texans with special vulnerabilities, including those with disabilities, or who are elderly, homeless, or have limited English language skills. Get more information and a list of offices at <http://lonestarlegal.org/>

If you need legal assistance and help navigating the civil justice system, Texas Legal Services offers attorneys, paralegals, and support staff to help. For more information, visit <https://tlsc.org/legal-aid-programs>.

If you are a renter with questions about your rights, contact the Texas Attorney General Tenant Rights office at 512-463-2100 or visit: <https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cpd/tenant-rights>.

If a child with disabilities in foster care needs legal representation, the Disability Rights Texas Foster Care Program provides representation through court appointment. Learn about the program at <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/publication/drtx-foster-care-program/>.

If you are a current or former foster youth who needs free legal help, contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project at <http://texasfosteryouth.org/> or call 877-313-3688.

If you believe you are a victim of disaster-related fraud, report it to local law enforcement. Survivors may get their money back. You should also inform these agencies:

- FEMA Disaster Assistance Helpline: 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-462-7585
- Texas Office of the Attorney General: 800-621-0508
consumeremergency@oag.texas.gov or visit www.texasattorneygeneral.gov
- National Center for Disaster Fraud: 866-720-5721 or email disaster@leo.gov
- Federal Trade Commission Complaint Assistant 877-382-4357 (877-FTC-HELP) or www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

If you spot a rental scam, inform the website that carried the listing.

Youth Resources

For tips on helping children and youth cope after a disaster or traumatic event visit:

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/ADM86-1070R>.

If you are a youth who is grieving or experiencing the loss of a loved one, contact the Children’s Bereavement Center of South Texas. For more information, visit <https://cbcst.org/>.

Parents or legal guardians seeking mental health help for minors can get help by telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week through local Mental Health Crisis Hotlines. Visit <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-crisis-services> to find the one for your county.

If you are in foster care and are looking for information and resources, visit the Texas Youth Connection at <https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/>.

If you are a current or former foster youth who needs free legal help, contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project at <http://texasfosteryouth.org/> or call 877-313-3688.

If you are looking for legal representation for children with disabilities in foster care, the Disability Rights Texas Foster Care Program provides representation through court appointment. Learn about the program at <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/publication/drtx-foster-care-program/>.

If you are looking for programs that assist youth aging out of foster care in identifying and developing support systems and housing, including the Extended Foster Care program, visit https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/default.asp.

If you are looking for transitional living services and benefits for older youth in foster care and those have aged out, visit https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Transitional_Living/default.asp

If you are turning 18 and are interested in participating in extended foster care, visit https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp to find your local coordinator.

If you are a foster child or an adopted youth from Texas needing educational resources, visit http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Education/default.asp.

If you are an older foster child, homeless youth or other at-risk youth from 15-1/2 to 25, transitions centers can provide job readiness, housing assistance, mentoring and more. Visit https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Transitional_Living/transition_centers.asp

If you are between 16 and 24 and want to earn your high school diploma or GED, the American Youthworks' Youthbuild Program can help you complete your education and help you receive training and certification in computer technology, healthcare or green construction. For more information, visit <http://americanyouthworks.org/programs/youthbuild>.

If you want to earn your high school diploma or GED and prepare for the workforce, the San Antonio Youthbuild Program can help you receive training in the construction industry. For more information, visit <https://sanantonioyouth.org/youthbuild>

If you are a low-income youth interested in a career in construction, Motivation Education & Training, Inc. (MET Inc.) has a YouthBuild Program that teaches Texas youth construction skills to help build affordable housing and other community facilities. Learn more at <https://www.metinc.org/youthbuild>.

If you are a youth looking for vocational training, the Gulf Coast Trades Center offers special programs for automotive, building trades, business information management, culinary arts, and horticulture, with post-training support for one year. For more information visit <http://www.gctc.us/vocational-training.html>.

If you are a homeless young adult age 18-22 who has aged out of the child welfare system, you may be eligible to participate in a program through DePelchin Children's Center which offers support at locations throughout the Houston area and across Texas. Some may be eligible to participate in the TAGS Program which offers temporary residence. For more information visit <https://www.depelchin.org/transitioning-to-adulthood-through-guidance-and-support/>.

If you are interested in education, construction training, leadership development and community service with a chance to earn training stipends and become a part-time AmeriCorps member, you should contact YouthBuild Brownsville. For more information, visit <http://www.cdcbrownsville.org/youthbuild.html>.

Resources for Elderly Texans

If you need tips on how to be supportive of older family members after a disaster, and to be aware of some of their special needs and vulnerabilities, visit

http://www.dshs.texas.gov/preparedness/factsheet_elderly_emo-rec.shtm?terms=Helping%20the%20elderly%20recover%20from%20the%20emotional%20aftermath%20of%20a%20disaster.

If you need information about caring for elderly disaster survivors, contact the Center on Disability and Development which also provides many links to other websites:

<http://redd.tamu.edu/disaster-information>.

If you need services and referrals to support the health, safety and well-being of older adults and caregivers, contact your local Area Agency on Aging. These agencies work to ensure the availability of transportation, nutrition, homemaker and senior center operations, as well as providing benefits counseling, long-term care ombudsman services and care coordination. These agencies, which are supported by Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Commission, can be found on the HHS website at <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/aaa.cfm>.

If you are in the Coastal Bend region and need assistance for individuals with disabilities or who over 60 years of age, contact the Coastal Bend Aging & Disability Resource Center. The staff assists veterans, family caregivers and agency professionals in the Coastal Bend area including Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties: <https://coastalbendadrc.org>.

If you are in the Houston-Galveston area and need support to remain independent and healthy in the community through services and assistance with Medicare, contact the Houston-Galveston Area Agency on Aging. The agency serves older Texans in the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton: <http://www.h-gac.com/human-services/aging/default.aspx#>

Resources for Texans with Disabilities

To search and find information about disability resources and services that are specially designated for Hurricane Harvey survivors, visit the REDDy Directory at <http://disabilityresources.tamu.edu/search-resources-harvey>.

For information about housing rights for people with disabilities affected by Hurricane Harvey, Disability Rights Texas offers an online handout that explains: your rights under the Federal Fair Housing Act and how it impacts where you live; and a sample letter asking for a reasonable accommodation under federal and state law for early termination of your lease. Visit <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/handout/housing-rights-information-for-people-with-disabilities-impacted-by-hurricane-harvey/>.

If you are the parent of a student displaced by Hurricane Harvey, Disability Rights Texas offers information about their special education rights at <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/handout/students-with-disabilities-displaced-by-hurricane-harvey/>.

If you need information about legal representation for children with disabilities in foster care, the Disability Rights Texas Foster Care Program provides representation through court appointment. Learn about the program at <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/handout/students-with-disabilities-displaced-by-hurricane-harvey/>.

If you would like an overview of federal civil rights laws that ensure equal opportunity for people with disabilities, visit www.ada.gov/cguide.htm.

If you are in the Coastal Bend region and need assistance for individuals with disabilities or who over 60 years of age, contact the Coastal Bend Aging & Disability Resource Center. The staff assists veterans, family caregivers and agency professionals in the Coastal Bend area including Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio counties: <https://coastalbendadrc.org>.