



Disaster Assistance Information

# FEDERAL & STATE

## Federal Resources

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance is now available to Pinellas and Hillsborough County residents who experienced damages/losses due to Hurricane Helene. Disaster assistance may include financial help for temporary lodging, basic home repairs and other disaster-caused expenses. Eligible residents can apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), using the FEMA app or by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- Please use the residential damage reporting tool as much as reasonably possible during your assessments. The tool is a large part of how FEMA determines the amount of Individual Aid that comes to our communities. <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/3549976c61cf4f73a8910a9273107270>
- Document Flood Damage. <https://www.floodsmart.gov/document-damageand-start-clean>

## Disaster Unemployment Assistance

- If you lost your job or had a break in your employment, self-employment, or business as a direct result of Hurricane Helene, you might be able to get benefit money from DUA. Disaster Unemployment Assistance <https://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants/disaster-unemployment-assistance>.

Work search reporting, waiting week, and Employ Florida registration requirements for Reemployment Assistance claims have been temporarily waived for Floridians impacted by Hurricane Helene in FEMA disaster-declared counties.

## SNAP Food Replacement

- SNAP Recipients who lost food due to Hurricane Helene can apply for food replacement by completing the form: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/helene>. Must complete by Oct. 6th.

## Business Resources

- Complete the Business Damage Assessment Survey offered by FloridaCommerce. Survey responses will allow the state to expedite the storm recovery efforts by gathering and assessing the needs of affected businesses. Select the named storm from the dropdown menu. No need to know the exact

dollar value of your costs, an estimate is fine.

<https://floridadisaster.biz/Respond/BusinessDamageAssessmentsSurvey>

- FloridaCommerce Activates the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program. Visit [FloridaJobs.org/EBL](https://FloridaJobs.org/EBL) to learn more about the program, view the lending guidelines and required documentation, and complete an application by November 24, 2024.

Business owners who need further program information may call 833-832-4494 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

- Disaster Assistance Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to homeowners and businesses. <https://lending.sba.gov/>



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# COUNTY RESOURCES

## Pinellas County Resources

- FEMA will open a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo, to assist residents affected by Hurricane Helene on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The DRC will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. DRCs serve as centralized locations where people can access various services and information related to disaster recovery. <https://pinellas.gov/news/fema-disasterrecovery-center-to-open-at-largo-public-library/>
- Need help with your business continuity and recovery plans? Get free business consulting and disaster resources from Pinellas County Economic Development. <https://www.pced.org/consulting/>
- The HOPE Florida line is currently active for the next two weeks for help after the storm and can be reached at 1-833-438-4357. <https://hopeflorida.com/>
- Crisis Cleanup has activated the Hurricane Helene Cleanup Hotline: (844) 965-1386. This is for people who need help cleaning up damage from the Hurricane Helene and connects people with volunteers from local relief organizations, community groups and faith communities who may be able assist with jobs such as muck-outs (cleaning up), trees, tarp, and debris. All services are free, but service is not guaranteed. This hotline will remain open through Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.

## Hillsborough County Resources

- Hillsborough County surveys and resources: <https://hcfl.gov/residents/stay-safe/storm-recovery-resources>
- Curbside Debris Collection: <https://hcfl.gov/newsroom/2024/09/30/hillsborough-county-curbside-storm-debris-collection-underway>
- **Damage Reporting:** The Hurricane Helene Damage Reporting Form is designed to help Hillsborough County officials connect residents with local recovery resources.

Homeowners and owners/renters of agricultural properties, nonprofits, and houses of worship should complete this form, which will help County staff communicate resident needs to local partners, such as American Red Cross, Feeding Tampa Bay, Metropolitan Ministries, Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay, and more. [HCFL.gov/DamageAssessment](https://HCFL.gov/DamageAssessment)

Residents who need assistance in completing the form should call (833) HC-STORM or 833-427-8676, the County's Customer Service & Support storm information line. This County assessment form IS NOT a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) application. To register with FEMA, visit

DisasterAssistance.gov. Please keep in mind that completing this form DOES NOT replace a business or homeowner's insurance claim, nor does it serve as an application for resources.

- **Hillsborough County Comfort Stations:** Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa opened six comfort stations to help residents affected by Hurricane Helene. Two comfort stations are in the City of Tampa and four other locations are in Town 'N Country, Apollo Beach, and Ruskin.

The comfort stations offer showers, restrooms, ice, washers, and dryers for laundry, and charging stations for phones, laptops, and other communications devices. Hot food or boxed meals will be available from approximately 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for lunch and 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. for dinner.

If you need transportation assistance to and from a comfort station, call (833) HC STORM or (833) 427-8676 daily from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. <https://hcfi.gov/newsroom/2024/09/30/hillsborough-county-curb-side-storm-debris-collection-underway>

- **Storm debris cleanup:** Hillsborough County will be collecting storm debris from County neighborhoods most heavily affected by Hurricane Helene. Residents in the County's collection areas impacted by flooding should place debris curbside without blocking the roadway or storm drains. To ensure smooth collection, materials should be separated into three categories: yard waste, damaged household appliances, and construction and demolition debris to include furniture, drywall, carpet, and fencing. Bagged waste and household hazardous waste, such as paint or car batteries, will not be accepted as part of this storm-related pickup. To learn more, visit the [pickup map](#).
- **Hurricane Helene Agricultural Impacts Survey Available:** The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is conducting a survey to determine agricultural damages from Hurricane Helene. Survey results will be used to estimate production losses and inform local, state, and federal decision-making related to disaster declaration, response, and relief. See [go.ufl.edu/damage-assessment-faqs](https://go.ufl.edu/damage-assessment-faqs) or more FAQs and to access the survey.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), and Hillsborough County open Disaster Recovery Center

### **Disaster Recovery Center**

Hillsborough Community College (HCC) at The Regent

6437 Watson Rd., Riverview, FL 33578.

### **Hours of operation:**

Monday, Sept. 30, 1 to 6 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 1 through Sunday, Oct. 6, 9 AM to 6 PM

Representatives from FEMA, the Florida Small Business Administration (SBA), and stakeholders will be present to assist residents who want to file a FEMA application for Individual Assistance through the Individual and Households Program (IHP) for Hurricane Helene.