

Florida Disaster Fund

- The Florida Disaster Fund, announced by Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, has raised nearly \$3 million since activation and is currently accepting donations.

State Response Efforts

- The first Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) opened yesterday at the Dixie County Public Library to provide impacted Floridians with needed supplies and recovery resources. This is the fastest that a DRC has opened in the state post landfall, beating Hurricane Ian's record by two days. A complete list of open DRCs can be found [here](#).
- Over 400,000 Meals, over 300,000 1-liter waters and over 10,000 tarps have been distributed to Point of Distribution (POD) locations. Find a list below at FloridaDisaster.org/Updates.
 - Points of Distributions (PODs) are beginning to demobilize as counties improve.
- Non-profit partners have established sites for impacted residents to eat hot meals. A full list of locations can be found [here](#).
- Nonprofit organizations are coordinating with the State Emergency Response Team to assist Idalia survivors with muck and gut assistance and crisis cleanup. For connection with completely free muck and gut assistance through nonprofits, contact CrisisCleanup at 1-800-451-1954 or CrisisCleanup.org.
- 6 shelters are currently open across Leon, Levy, Madison, Pinellas, Suwannee and Taylor counties housing an overnight population of 104 individuals. For up-to-date shelter information visit FloridaDisaster.org/updates.
- 66 Disaster Debris Management Sites have been authorized to operate for Hurricane Idalia, including three in Taylor and Madison counties. DEP has pre-authorized an additional 12 sites for these counties and will activate them as needed. DEP is coordinating with EPA's Landfill Strike Teams to provide technical support and assistance for sites operating as a result of Hurricane Idalia.
- The Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) instituted a data call to collect Hurricane Idalia catastrophe claims data and assist with determining the impact of Hurricane Idalia on Florida's insurance industry. OIR is requiring daily catastrophe claims reporting for Hurricane Idalia starting Friday, September 1. More information regarding catastrophe claims data and reporting is available [here](#).

Health and Human Services

- **DCF**
 - The Florida Department of Children and Families' (DCF) has established six Family Resource Support Centers (FRSC) in Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Taylor and Suwannee counties. The Department has staff on site, including Hope Navigators, crisis counselors who have expertise in disaster recovery response, and public benefit eligibility specialists. More information on specific locations and hours of operation can be found online at myflfamilies.com/Idalia.
 - To date, the FRSCs have served over 3,300 households in the six counties.
 - DCF is working to submit the waiver for D-SNAP and will have more information soon.

- DCF waiver requests to assist individuals receiving supplemental nutrition assistance benefits (SNAP) were approved, these waivers include:
 - Automatic SNAP replacement benefits - Households in the following counties that did not receive the early release of SNAP benefits will receive automatic replacement of SNAP benefits: Baker, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and Wakulla counties. Eligible recipients will have the benefits automatically added to their EBT card. There is no need for recipients to apply.
 - SNAP recipients will have the ability to use their EBT card to purchase hot food. Typically, food assistance benefits can only be used to buy unprepared foods, such as breads, cereals, meats, fruits, vegetables, and poultry.
 - DCF has released more than \$104 million in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits early in preparation/response to Hurricane Idalia for over 327,000 households that would normally receive their September SNAP benefit between the 1st - 14th of the month. This applies to SNAP households located in one of the 49 designated counties in Governor DeSantis' Executive Order. Eligible recipients will have the benefits automatically added to their EBT card. There is no need for recipients to apply.

- **DOH**
 - DOH continues to stage mobile field hospitals and emergency rooms as needed. Currently these are staged in Dixie, Taylor, Suwannee, Madison, and Lee counties.
 - A mobile medical unit is operating in each of the following counties: Madison, Taylor, and Lee.
 - A health medical task force is operating in Taylor County.
 - A mobile medical station is operating in the following county: Dixie.
 - Seven strike teams are deployed supporting ground and aerial EMS transport in Madison County. Additional strike teams stand ready to be deployed as needs are assessed and monitored.
 - CMS also ensured clients have access to early prescription refills. Following the storm to aid in recovery efforts, CMS and Sunshine Health are offering dental supplies, food, water, baby supplies, hygiene supplies at 8 locations in Cedar Key, Live Oak, and Horseshoe Beach. Medical care is also available at 4 of the sites.
 - In Dixie County, DOH supports door-to-door paramedicine wellness checks that provide first aid treatment or transportation for additional medical treatment as needed. Additionally, DOH staff, in partnership with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA), are conducting wellness checks that provide educational health/safety information, identify health/safety risks, and connect Floridians to services.
 - DOH has deployed three environmental health strike teams to conduct assessments to inspect storm damage and any health/safety risks that must be addressed in Taylor, Hamilton, and Dixie counties.
 - An environmental strike teams finished conducting assessments in Jefferson and Madison counties.

- For health facilities with storm damage, damage assessment guidelines, are available [here](#).
- Teledoc is providing free virtual health care services, including general medical telehealth visits, non-emergency services, and prescription refills, to Florida residents, first responders and others directly impacted by Hurricane Idalia. Call Teladoc directly at 855-225-5032.
- APD
 - The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), continues to conduct post-storm outreach and follow-up of all clients, determining unmet needs, assisting those with needs to connect with and access community, state, and federal resources, and work toward getting them back to normalcy and stability.
 - APD is equipping providers and partners with updated recovery assistance information to assist their members and our clients as we move through the recovery process.
 - APD is staffing the Family Resource Centers and the Disaster Recovery centers, assisting individuals with disabilities with their recovery needs.
 - APD regional staff are contacting the 6,061 APD clients in the 14 counties declared for Individual Assistance, ensuring they are registering with FEMA as appropriate, and assisting in meeting unmet needs.
 - APD is assisting APD clients with disaster-caused needs in registering for FEMA in the IA declared counties.

Employees and Businesses

- FloridaCommerce, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, CareerSource, Citizens Property Insurance and Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are co-locating business resources for communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia. Located at:
 - The Bridge Church 1135 E US 90, Madison, FL 32340
 - Pouncey's Restaurant 2186 S Byron Butler PKWY Perry, FL 32348
 - Hamilton County Courthouse Annex 1153 NW US Hwy 41 Jasper, FL 32052
 - CareerSource Florida Crown 25811 SE US Hwy 19 Old Town, FL 32680
 - Department of Children and Families 521 Demorest Street Live Oak, FL 3206
 - The FLOW mobile from FLHSMV will be relocating to 705 East Base St. in Madison
- The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program has been activated making \$20 million available for businesses impacted by Hurricane Idalia, with \$5 million set aside for agricultural small businesses. Florida small business owners in need of assistance are encouraged to visit <http://www.FloridaJobs.org/EBL> to apply for the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program.
- FloridaCommerce and the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated the Business Damage Assessment Survey in response to Hurricane Idalia. Survey responses will allow the state to expedite Hurricane Idalia recovery efforts by gathering data and assessing the needs of affected businesses. Businesses can complete the survey online by visiting www.floridadisaster.biz/ and selecting "Hurricane Idalia" from the dropdown menu.

- Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to businesses and residents in Florida. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/ and should apply under SBA declaration # 18118.
- FloridaCommerce has activated the private sector hotline at 850-815-4925 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Inquiries may also be emailed to ESF18@em.myflorida.com.
- DWG application was submitted to USDOL for \$20 million for the impacted counties. We are awaiting approval.
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available for claimants impacted by Hurricane Idalia. DUA is available for weeks of unemployment beginning September 3, 2023, until March 2, 2024, as long as the individual's unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster in a designated-disaster areas. The deadline to submit a claim for DUA benefits is no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 3, 2023, for businesses and residents in Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Pasco, Suwannee, and Taylor counties. For businesses and residents in Pinellas County, the deadline to submit a claim for DUA benefits is no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 5, 2023.
 - Additionally, work search reporting, waiting week, and Employ Florida registration requirements for Reemployment Assistance claims have been temporarily waived for Floridians impacted by Hurricane Idalia in FEMA disaster-declared counties.
- Over the weekend the DBPR Division of Regulation performed damage assessment sweeps to look for structural damages caused by Hurricane Idalia and combat unlicensed activity in Citrus, Levy, Madison, Pasco, Suwannee, and Taylor counties. Residents can report instances of unlicensed contracting to the DBPR hotline toll-free at +1 (866) 532-1440.

Federal Response Updates

- If your home was damaged by Hurricane Idalia but you can live in it safely, FEMA may be able to provide up to \$300 in one-time financial assistance to help with cleanup. This assistance is for eligible homeowners and renters and is available for counties designated for Critical Needs Assistance and for those whose insurance would not cover such costs. To apply, visit DisasterAssistance.gov.
- FEMA is also providing assistance for those with immediate or critical needs who were displaced from their primary dwelling. That assistance provides a one-time \$700 payment per household. This assistance is available for counties designated for Critical Needs Assistance and for those whose insurance would not cover such costs. To apply, visit DisasterAssistance.gov.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration has made available Disaster Loans for Hurricane Idalia affected businesses. Applications for Business Physical Disaster Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and Home Disaster Loans are available [here](#).