



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 Hurricanes Helene and Milton. 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, 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 Hurricanes Helene or Milton, 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.

**If you live or work in the following DUA-eligible counties you must file your application by December 10, 2024 for Hurricane Milton.**

**If you live or work in the following DUA-eligible counties you must file your application by December 2, 2024 for Hurricane Helene.**

## 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://tinyurl.com/Business-Damage>

- FloridaCommerce Activates the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program. Visit [FloridaJobs.org/EBL](https://www.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/>
- Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, making \$50 million available for businesses impacted by Hurricane Milton. Florida small business owners in need of assistance, including sole proprietors, are encouraged to visit [www.FloridaJobs.org/EBL](https://www.FloridaJobs.org/EBL) to apply for the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program. The program provides short-term, zero-interest loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury or physical damage due to Hurricane Milton. Interested applicants can apply now through December 4, 2024, or until all available funds are expended.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has opened a Business Recovery Center (BRC) in Hillsborough County to provide one-on-one assistance with submitting disaster loan applications for Florida businesses impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

SBA Customer Service Representatives will be available to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist business owners in completing their applications. The BRC plays a critical role during disasters, assisting businesses in recovering from physical, inventory, and economic losses by offering low-interest loans with repayment plans of up to 30 years.

The Hillsborough County BRC is located at the Entrepreneur Collaborative Center (ECC), 2101 E. Palm Ave., Tampa, FL 33605. The BRC is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center is closed on Sunday.

Free parking is available across Palm Avenue.

For more information about the BRC, please contact the ECC at (813) 204-9267.

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to businesses and residents in Florida following the announcement of a Presidential Disaster Declaration due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Detailed information and applications are available on the SBA Disaster Assistance Page.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage are:

- Hurricane Helene: November 27, 2024
- Hurricane Milton: December 10, 2024

The filing deadline to return economic injury applications are:

- Hurricane Helene: June 30, 2025
- Hurricane Milton: July 11, 2025

## Individual Resources

- Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) has disaster relief resources and information for Floridians in need of housing options and other housing related support. For more information [click here](#). FHFC has also activated [FloridaHousingSearch.org](https://www.FloridaHousingSearch.org) to assist hurricane-impacted Floridians in

locating an affordable rental property. This free, statewide search platform is being constantly updated to ensure all listings are accurate. Floridians can also call 1-877-428-8844.

- They can also go into one of CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas' Career Centers open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or visit our website at [Home - CSTB Hillsborough Pinellas \(careersourcehillsboroughpinellas.com\)](https://careersourcehillsboroughpinellas.com)

**The following offices are in Pinellas County:**

Gulf to Bay Career Center, 2312 Gulf to Bay Boulevard, Clearwater, FL 33765

St. Petersburg Career Center, 3420 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Tarpon Springs Career Center: 682 E. Klosterman Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

**The following offices are in Hillsborough County:**

Tampa Career Center, 9215 N Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33612

Brandon Career Center, 6302 E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Tampa, FL 33619

Ruskin Career Center, 201 14th Avenue, SE Ruskin, FL 33570

Plant City Career Center, 307 N Michigan Ave, Plant City, FL 33563

Bullard Family Center, 2011 East Sligh Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610 (by appointment only)

Wimauma Center, 5128 State Road 674 Wimauma, FL 33598

- Gulf Coast Jewish Family Community Services has grant funds available for “gaps in services or unmet general needs” text [hurricaneassistance@gcjfcs.org](mailto:hurricaneassistance@gcjfcs.org) or call **(727) 473-0020**



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# COUNTY RESOURCES

## Pinellas County Resources

- 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.
- Pinellas County Emergency Information - <https://pinellas.gov/emergency-information/>
- Expanded Disaster Recovery Center opening in Largo - <https://pinellas.gov/news/expanded-disaster-recovery-center-opening-in-largo/>
- Disaster Recovery Center in St. Petersburg is at the Enoch D. Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, with hours from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## 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 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](https://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-curbside-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 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 Hurricanes Helene and Milton. 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-fags](https://go.ufl.edu/damage-assessment-fags) 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.

- The Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are opening a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for individuals, families, and businesses impacted by Hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Debby.

The center will be open daily from 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. until further notice at the Arthenia L. Joyner University Area Community Library at 13619 N. 22nd St., Tampa.

The DRC is open to individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits seeking assistance or needing help in completing applications after being impacted by Hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Debby. FEMA representatives will be in attendance to assist.

Additionally, FEMA declared that residents in Hillsborough County who were impacted by Hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Debby can apply for aid through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP).

The program provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by Hurricanes Milton, Helene, and Debby. The assistance is intended to meet basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts. Residents who need long-term housing are encouraged to apply for individual assistance with FEMA as soon as possible.

- Impacted Hillsborough County residents can apply for the FEMA assistance if they have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs, according to FEMA. However, the IHP assistance is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster.

What does FEMA assistance for the IHP include?

- Funds for temporary housing while you are unable to live in your home, such as rental assistance, or reimbursement for hotel costs
- Funds to support the repair or replacement of owner-occupied homes that serve as the household's primary residence, including privately-owned access routes, such as driveways, roads, or bridges
- A temporary housing unit when you are not able to use rental assistance due to a lack of available housing resources
- Funds for hazard mitigation assistance to help eligible homeowners repair or rebuild stronger, more durable homes
- Funds for other uninsured or under-insured disaster-caused expenses and serious needs

To apply for Individual and Household Assistance visit [Disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov). From this page you can review the application process, apply for Individual Assistance, and check the status of your application.

For application help, call the FEMA Helpline, (800) 621-3362, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

For technical support or site errors, call the Internet Help Desk, (800) 745-0243, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Residents can find the latest information on storm recovery resources by visiting [HCFL.gov/StormRecovery](https://www.hcfl.gov/StormRecovery).