

# Hurricane Laura

## Emergency Resources and Volunteer Opportunities

\*\*If you are unable to click on any of the links below, please copy the link and paste it to your browser.

### If you need help

#### Government

##### FEMA

The FEMA number is **1-800-621-FEMA** and claims can be filed [here](#). Click here to see the assistance, grants and loans that FEMA provides for those impacted by natural disaster.

##### State of Louisiana:

Citizens in need of services should **dial 211**, which is a hotline operating 24/7. Governor's Office **225-342-7015**.

##### DSNAP Food Stamps:

DSNAP Benefits (Everyone affected by the storm can register for food stamps. If you already receive SNAP benefits you do not need to register again):

<http://www.dcf.la.gov/dsnap>

Customer Service Center at **1 (888) LAHELPU (1-888-524-3578)**.

##### LA Department of Insurance:

If you do have your homeowner's policy information, call your insurance provider to check on the specifics of your coverage. Also you can inform them that your house is uninhabitable and can request that mortgage payments get deferred (stopped) for the immediate future.

**\*\*Tip:** Take pictures of ALL damage (inside and outside) before cleaning up.

**(225) 342-1258.**

#### Through Blue Cross

##### BlueCare Telehealth

If you need more pressing medical or behavioral health support, remember that you can use [BlueCare](http://www.bluecarela.com) to have online visits at [www.bluecarela.com](http://www.bluecarela.com)

Our telehealth vendor, Amwell, is offering \$0 visits for a limited time to help members who need care following the hurricane. Through Sept. 2, BlueCare's 24/7 medical visits will be available for \$0—when you use the code LAURA. You can also have one behavioral health appointment for \$0 using the code LAURA through Sept. 2.

##### Early Drug Refills

For a limited time, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and HMO Louisiana are offering early refills on medications for members with Express Scripts pharmacy benefits so they can get needed medications refilled early if they had to evacuate, lost their medications or have limited access to their pharmacy.

## Other

**Crisis Cleanup:** Need help mucking and gutting your house? Contact Crisis Cleanup, a multi-agency homeowner assistance database. Homeowners can call **844-965-1386**.

**Additional Resources**

- [FEMA Flood Insurance Claims Handbook](#)
- [FEMA Assistance to Individuals and Households](#)
- [Louisiana Dept. of Insurance – Storm Damage Resource Center](#)
- [FloodSmart.gov - Start a Claim](#)
- [FloodSmart.gov – How to Document Damage](#)
- [Small Business Administration – Disaster Help](#)

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# If you want to volunteer

## Notes:

- Do not self-deploy in flooded areas. Conditions will be dangerous for several days, and self-deployment can impede response and recovery efforts. Once conditions are safe, response organizations will assess damage and offer volunteer opportunities.

## **Volunteer Louisiana**

Volunteer Louisiana, the state service commission for Louisiana, was established in 1993 under the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and strives to promote national service and volunteerism throughout the state. As needs are identified, volunteer opportunities will be posted at:

<http://volunteerlouisiana.galaxydigital.com/>

For medical needs volunteers, [click here](#).

## **Samaritan's Purse**

As volunteer opportunities re: Laura become active, they will be posted at

<https://www.spvolunteer.org/project-response/286>

# If you want to donate

## Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana Area Relief Fund

We are raising money from people who want to help their neighbors in Southwest Louisiana return to the lives they'd known before this disaster struck. The contributions we receive will be granted to nonprofits that have proven they don't flinch when catastrophe comes.

At the start, our disaster grants pay for food, shelter, medicine, and all the other necessities that help stabilize those in most immediate need. Then we shift to making grants for long-term recovery and, perhaps more importantly, for making people and places more resilient for the next time disaster visits.

<https://www.foundationswla.org/hurricane-relief>

## American Red Cross

Here are three ways you can support those impacted by Hurricane Laura.

- You can make a difference in the lives of people impacted by Hurricane Laura. Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 800-RED-CROSS or text the word LAURA to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from this disaster. Ensure your donation helps people affected by Hurricane Laura by choosing that option on [redcross.org/donate](http://redcross.org/donate) or 800-RED-CROSS.
- We encourage eligible blood donors in parts of the country unaffected by the storm to give blood or platelets to help ensure a sufficient blood supply. [Learn more here](#).
- If you have the time, you can make a significant impact as a Red Cross volunteer. Review our most urgently needed volunteer positions here: <http://redcross.org/volunteertoday>.

## YouGiveGoods

Virtual Supply Drive for Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana - <https://yougivegoods.com/bcbsla-hurricanelaura>

## Cajun Navy

The Cajun Navy, a nonprofit, citizen-led disaster response team, is working to rescue those who are stranded and get them critical supplies. You may make a [monetary donation](#).

## SBP

SBP (originally named St. Bernard Project) is asking for local volunteers and [donations](#), which will go to supplies for home rebuilding, and P.P.E. for their team members and other needs.

## Louisiana Baptists

Louisiana Baptists, a network of 1600 churches, has trained volunteers preparing to help clean up and feed the hungry. The organization has [listed the materials](#) it most needs on its website, including bleach, buckets, rubber gloves and other cleaning materials. It [encourages cash donations](#), as well.

## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has set up more than 15 mobile feeding stations to aid first-responders and survivors across Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas. You can [donate on its website](#) to help provide food and other supplies.

## Americares

Americares has set up a [dedicated relief fund](#) to support its deliveries of medicine, personal protective equipment, or P.P.E., and medical supplies to disaster areas.

## United Way of Southwest Louisiana

[United Way of Southwest Louisiana](#) has set up a fund to support both short- and long-term relief efforts. You can text LAURA to 40403 to donate, or do so [on their website](#).

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**All Hands and Hearts**

All Hands and Hearts is an emergency response organization that deploys volunteers to disaster sites to help with cleaning, rebuilding homes and creating a long-term recovery plan. You can donate to its [Hurricane Laura Relief fund](#) or [sign up to volunteer](#).

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**Operation BBQ Relief**

[Operation BBQ Relief](#) is a Missouri-based organization that brings barbecue meals to disaster sites to feed emergency medical workers and displaced families. It is currently running a [fund-raiser](#) to help its efforts.

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**Mercy Chefs**

Mercy Chefs, which was founded after Hurricane Katrina, is providing meals to those affected by the storm. You may [donate or sign up to be a volunteer](#) on their website.

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