

Florida Disaster Relief Assistance | Fort Lauderdale FAQ

Disaster assistance from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration is designed to kick-start recovery – but is not enough to restore your home to its pre-disaster condition or to replace your treasured household items. Below are some resources that may be able to assist you through this difficult time.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

(DEO) announced the activation of the Business Damage Assessment Survey to measure the physical and economic impacts of the flooding event in Southeast Florida on local businesses. Survey responses will assist the state in accelerating recovery efforts by providing data on the needs of affected businesses.

Businesses can [complete the survey online](#) by visiting www.FloridaDisaster.biz and selecting “Broward County Flooding” from the dropdown menu. If you need additional assistance with your business, please call 850-815-4925 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or email ESF18@EM.MyFlorida.com.

The Disaster Help Desk Is Here for You

The Disaster Help Desk provides one-on-one expert assistance to small business owners before, during, and after a disaster strikes. From preparing for hurricane and wildfire season to unexpected floods or power outages, our team is here to answer any questions you might have.

Phone: 888-MY-BIZ-HELP

Email: bizhelpdesk@uschamber.com

National Flood Insurance Program | Claims Handbook

<https://agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema-claims-handbook-04-2022.pdf>

How to File a Flood Insurance Claim Infographic

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_nfip_how-to-file-flood-insurance-claim.pdf

Unmet Needs Information

FEMA defines an unmet need as being a deficit between verified disaster-caused damages and obtainable disaster aid, including insurance assistance, Federal and State assistance, and personal resources. The State of Florida recognizes an unmet need as a need that persists after the above have been exhausted. It is the goal of our division to provide information that could assist survivors who may have identified unmet needs as a result of a disaster, in making connections with agencies outside of the Division. The Unmet Needs page on the Division’s website provides links to various entities/resources that may potentially aid in meeting the survivor’s unmet needs.

Disaster Assistance

This is the website and telephone number for FEMA. Here is where you can register for disaster assistance, call FEMA to receive case updates, and provide any additional information for your disaster case file.

Phone Number: 1-800-621-3362

[Message Disaster Assistance](#)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

This is the website to register for SBA loans (for both homeowners and businesses). This is where you

can find information on case files and contact needs for SBA. Please note that if there is a declaration you will need to apply for an SBA loan before you apply for FEMA assistance.

Phone Number: 1-800-659-2955 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-877-8339)

Email: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

Office of Insurance Regulation

Office of Insurance Regulation can assist with homeowners and their insurance policy questions as well as make any complaints about their insurance providers.

Phone Number: 850-413-3140

Email: InsuranceCommissioner@flor.com

Department of Financial Services

Department of Financial Services can provide information on agent's licenses; is where someone can report fraud; and acts as another insurance helpline option.

Phone Number: 1-877-MY-FL-CFO (1-877-693-5236)

[Message FL's DFS](#)

Department of Economic Opportunity

Department of Economic Opportunity is the website and phone number for businesses who can report damages; apply for disaster unemployment, small business bridge loans, and long-term recovery resources.

Email: CDBG-DR@DEO.MyFlorida.com

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC)

FHFC is a website that can help homebuyers, renters, homeowners, and development options. This can be used year-round, to include disaster times.

Phone Number: 850-488-4197

[Message FHFC](#)

Department of Education (county specific)

Department of Education websites are county specific and can be used to see school closures, schools that are used for sheltering purposes, and when the schools would be expected to reopen post disaster.

Phone Number: 850-245-0505

Email: Commissioner@fldoe.org

Disaster Legal Aid

Disaster Legal Aid is legal assistance during disasters that provides Pro Bono legal help for a variety of options. For example, tenant and landlord situations or disputes.

Disaster Fraud Hotline

Disaster Fraud Hotline is a phone number where anyone can call and advise if someone is claiming disaster funding, etc. when they are not entitled to it. This will start an investigation by FEMA.

Phone Number: 1-866-720-5721

[Message Department of Justice](#)

[U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs offers assistance to veterans who were affected by a disaster.

Phone Number: 1-800-507-4571

[Message U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[Red Cross](#)

Red Cross is a voluntary agency that can aid the community. This can include clothing, food, charging stations, etc.

Phone Number: 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767)

[Message Red Cross](#)

[Catholic Charities](#)

Catholic Charities provide similar support as Red Cross and Volunteer Florida.

Phone Number: 727-893-1313

Email: catholic.charities@ccdosp.org

[Floridadisaster.biz](#)

Florida biz is where businesses can report damages; apply for small business emergency bridge loans; research disaster contractors who applied to assist with Floridians post disaster; and apply for SBA.

Phone Number: 850-815-4925 (disclaimer: number is only operational during a disaster)

Email: ESF18@em.myflorida.com

[Florida Restores](#) (The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church)

Florida Restores (UMCOR) offers support in the way of materials, money, and volunteers for post disaster recovery efforts.

Phone Number: 1-855-CAT-FUMC (1-855-228-3862)