



FEMA



# Hurricane Michael Recovery

Feb. 14, 2019

## FEMA Is Hiring

### Florida Residents Join FEMA to Work on Hurricane Recovery

FEMA continues to hire residents in the Florida Panhandle to work on Hurricane Michael recovery. Forty-three people have been hired so far and more jobs are being posted. Hiring temporary staff locally allows FEMA to diversify the workforce while providing opportunities for survivors to help other survivors.

Jobs are available in Tallahassee, Panama City and other areas recovering from Hurricane Michael. Potential applicants should monitor the [USAjobs.gov](http://USAjobs.gov) website, where positions are posted regularly. To find the temporary local hire positions, search keyword “FEMA local hire” and “Florida” in the location field. To receive notice of new job openings, applicants can “save the search” after creating an account on the website.



*Federal Coordinating Officer Thomas J. McCool, right, swears in new FEMA employees*

### Church, Voluntary Groups Team Up to Rebuild After Hurricane Michael

The church has warehouse space. Hurricane survivors need to rebuild their homes. A disaster relief organization has construction workers. It’s all coming together in Marianna, Fla.

Before Hurricane Michael, [Rivertown Community Church](#) was already engaged in community activities through its ministries. After the storm, the church made its 20,000-square-foot warehouse available as a distribution point for relief supplies in northwest Florida. More than 4.5 million pounds of supplies were distributed from the site.

But there was more to do. [Mennonite Disaster Service](#) asked if the church could outfit the warehouse to house 40 volunteers who would rebuild houses. The [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) (UMCOR) asked if it could participate in the joint effort as part of its Hurricane Michael response, providing services such as disaster case management.



*Construction at Riverside Community Church warehouse*

Rivertown Community Church responded. “We realized that to rebuild and help uninsured or underinsured survivors, we have to engage the expertise of groups outside our area,” said Kevin Yoder, associate pastor for the church. “We want to manage local needs with resources.”



*Kevin Yoder, Associate Pastor at Riverside*

The church agreed to build out 6,000 feet of the warehouse to accommodate the volunteers. Grants have covered \$30,000 of the \$92,000 cost and the church is working with FEMA’s Voluntary Agency Liaison and the philanthropic advisor for FEMA’s Integrated Recovery Coordination Group to identify potential philanthropic funding for the work. A nonprofit organization, North Florida Inland Long-Term Recovery Group was formed for this purpose. Information is available at [www.northfloridarecovery.org](http://www.northfloridarecovery.org).

## **Hurricane Michael Recovery Resources Portal**

The Hurricane Michael Recovery Resources Portal provides online access to information that can help local governments, nonprofit organizations, the private sector and the philanthropic community in Florida locate resources for recovery from the storm.

The portal can be accessed at: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/dr4399fl/>. Users sign in as “Guest,” then follow instructions on the webpage.

## **Florida Leads in Number of Flood Insurance Policies**

In Florida, 1,757,727 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies are in effect, providing coverage of \$439 billion. Florida has more NFIP policyholders than any other state. NFIP insurance policies pay up to \$250,000 for a residential structure and \$100,000 for personal property. Renters can insure personal property for up to \$100,000.

Policies are available in communities that participate in the NFIP program, agreeing to adopt and enforce flood-damage prevention ordinances. More than 22,000 communities in the U.S.

participate. Homeowners and renters can buy flood insurance by contacting their insurance company or agent. For more information, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

For an agent referral, call 800-427-4661 (TTY 800-462-7585) or visit [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program).

## Child Care Providers Receive Information About Resources



The Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida held a two-day event to help child care providers obtain information about resources from state and federal agencies to assist recovery from Hurricane Michael. The event, held at Florida State University Panama City Feb. 8-9, provided information on licensing, facility operation, reimbursements and other topics.

## Recovery Update (Feb. 14, 2019)

- **FEMA Individual Assistance:** \$135.5 million in grants approved, including \$111.1 million in housing assistance and \$24.4 million for Other Needs Assistance.
- **FEMA Public Assistance:** \$2.1 million awarded to reimburse local jurisdiction for debris removal.
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):** Approved 12,261 loan applications for a total of \$608.7 million, including \$505.3 million for homeowners and renters and \$103.4 million for businesses.
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** Paid \$195 million on 4,070 claims.
- **Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA):** 512 survivor households are checked into hotels under TSA, which is approved for Bay, Gulf and Jackson counties.
- **Direct Temporary Housing:** 563 households are occupying units in the five counties – Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf and Jackson – authorized for direct housing assistance.
- **Rental Assistance:** 20,846 homeowners and renters approved.

## SBA Centers

- **Bay County Public Library**, 898 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Panama City, FL 32401, Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Mobile Business Recovery Center)
- **LeRoy Collins Library**, 200 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Disaster Loan Outreach Center)



Disaster Assistance Loans  
Customer Service: 800-659-2955  
[www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance](http://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance)

- **A.D. Harris Learning Village Building 2** (classroom 10), 819 E 11<sup>th</sup> St., Panama City, FL 32402, Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Disaster Loan Outreach Center)
- **Florida State University Panama City Holley Academic Center**, 4750 Collegiate Dr., Panama City, FL 32405, Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat Noon-6 p.m. (Disaster Loan Outreach Center)
- **Historic Russ House**, 4318 Lafayette St., Marianna, FL 32446, Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Disaster Loan Outreach Center)

## Bay County Recovery Task Force Website

The website for the Bay County Long-Term Recovery Task Force is [www.recoverbaycounty.com](http://www.recoverbaycounty.com). The site contains information about recovery activities and live streaming of task force meetings.

## Disaster Recovery Centers

Centers are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and closed Sunday. All times local. Centers will operate on a normal schedule Monday, Feb. 18 for the Presidents Day federal holiday.

- **Bay County Public Library**, 898 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Panama City, FL 32401
- **Callaway Community Center**, 599 Beulah Avenue, Callaway, FL 32404 (Closes Feb. 20)
- **Blountstown Public Library**, 17731 NE Pear St., Blountstown, FL 32424
- **Old Gretna Elementary School**, 706 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Gretna, FL 32332 (Closes Feb. 15)
- **Port St. Joe Fire Department**, 404 Williams Ave., Port St. Joe, FL 32456.

Visit: [FEMA.gov/DRC](http://FEMA.gov/DRC) or [download the FEMA App](#) to locate open disaster recovery centers in your area.

The graphic is a vertical banner with a dark blue background. At the top left is the HUD logo. To its right, the text 'Disaster Recovery Assistance Information' is written in white. Below this is a red banner with the text 'FOR MORE INFORMATION:'. Underneath are three rows of contact information: 'PHONE' with a telephone icon and the number '1-800-304-9320'; 'EMAIL' with an envelope icon and the address 'RECOVERY@HUD.GOV'; and 'WEBSITE' with a globe icon and the address 'WWW.HUD.GOV'. At the bottom, there are four white icons (a house, a hammer, a speech bubble, and a wrench) above the text 'HERE TO HELP YOU'.

*Hurricane Michael survivors who are receiving HUD assistance or who have FHA-insured mortgages can call or email HUD with questions.*

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