

# ESF 15 SUPPORT AGENCIES

Active Community Team Services  
Adventist Community Service  
American Red Cross  
Associated Industries of Florida  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida  
Catholic Charities of Florida  
Christian Contractors Association  
Christian Disaster Response  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Church of Scientology Disaster Relief Team  
Church World Service  
Compassion Alliance  
Convoy of Hope

Corporation for National and Community Service  
Eagles Wings Foundation  
Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services  
Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Florida Association of Food Banks  
Florida Association of Volunteer Centers  
Florida Baptist Disaster Relief  
Florida Conference United Church of Christ  
Florida Crisis Response Team  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
Florida Goodwill Association  
Florida Fraternal Order of Police  
Florida Immediate Response Stress Team  
Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster  
Florida Jaycees  
Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network  
Florida State Conference of the NAACP  
Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster  
Florida's Episcopal Dioceses  
Knights Hospitallers (OSJ)  
Lutheran Services Florida  
National Disaster Relief  
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster  
Night Runners Mobile Crisis Services  
Operation Blessing International  
Samaritan's Purse  
The Salvation Army  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
United Way of Florida  
Volunteer Florida Foundation

*This document is available in large print, Braille and electronic formats.  
Please contact Volunteer Florida at 850-921-5172 with your request.*



401 South Monroe Street • Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 921-5172 voice/tty • (850) 921-5146 fax

[www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)

**Governor Charlie Crist**

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## When Disaster Strikes You Can Help!



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### Emergency Management & Volunteer Florida

Florida established its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in 1993 to include a system of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) to oversee the state's response to disasters. Each of the 18 ESFs in Florida is headed by a lead agency that unites supporting agencies with similar functions in effective disaster operations.

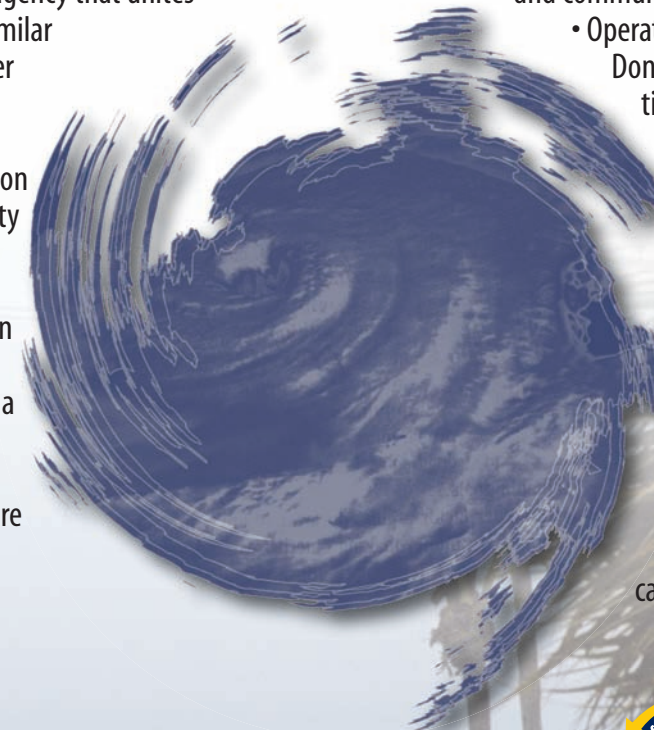
The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Volunteer Florida, is the lead agency for ESF 15, Volunteers and Donations. In pursuit of its mission, Volunteer Florida maintains a strong network of partnerships to ensure the needs of disaster survivors are met through donations and volunteer service.



### Emergency Support Function 15

As lead agency, Volunteer Florida:

- Matches disaster needs identified by federal, state, and local agencies with resources offered by faith and community-based organizations.
- Operates the Florida Volunteer and Donations Hotline and Web site in times of disaster.
- Routes disaster donations to local agencies.
- Trains Florida AmeriCorps members to support disaster-impacted communities.
- Coordinates disaster volunteer placement with local volunteer organizers.
- Develops networking and training exercises to enhance voluntary agencies' response capabilities.





# HELPING FLORIDIANS RECOVER IN TIMES OF DISASTER THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM AND DONATIONS

## Emergency Support Function 15

### Train to respond

Volunteers can:

- Educate the public on disaster response and recovery needs.
- Prepare and serve meals to survivors and relief workers.
- Connect survivors with relief agencies.
- Provide child care for disaster survivors.
- Manage Volunteer Reception Centers.
- Organize debris removal or clean-up assistance to the elderly and disabled.
- And much more!



### Think before acting

An influx of unexpected or unneeded volunteers and donations creates an additional burden for communities already struggling to respond to and recover from a disaster. Before traveling to a disaster area:

- Learn where and when your skills will be needed.
- Discuss with volunteer organizers how **your** needs for food, water and shelter will be met while you are volunteering.



## When Making Donations ...

### Financial gifts make the greatest impact

Relief agencies use monetary donations to meet survivors' specific needs, while avoiding the burdensome expense of sorting, packing and transporting goods. These organizations purchase supplies in impacted communities, helping to regenerate the local economy.

### Confirm the need before collecting items

Some relief agencies that have the ability to store and distribute donated goods may request specific items. Get precise information and coordinate with relief agencies to ensure that only needed items are collected. Follow their specific instructions for packaging and transporting your donations. Be wary of claims that "everything is needed." The gridlock caused by unneeded donated items prevents the flow of more crucial supplies from reaching impacted communities.



## CARE - The Best Way to Help

### HELPING DISASTER SURVIVORS

**Cash** - Financial gifts get help to people fast.

**Ask** before collecting items that may not be needed. Only give items requested by relief agencies.

**Respond** by volunteering with a local relief agency.

**Everyone** can help. Go to a local volunteer center.



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1-800-FL-HELP-1 • 1.800.354.3571

## The Florida Donations Portal

Volunteer Florida administers the Florida Donations Portal, which ...

- Allows donors to offer large-quantity donations online and specify their intended use.
- Allows relief agencies to post specific needs and accept or decline the offers.
- Prevents unneeded donations from choking the response effort.
- Connects donors wanting to give cash with all state ESF 15 Support Agencies.



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