



**FEMA**

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# Fact Sheet

## **Volunteers Are Key to Louisiana Disaster Recovery**

Many survivors of Louisiana's severe storms and floods that occurred March 8 through April 8 are taking the crucial step to return home because of volunteers.

### **Why Volunteers Are Important**

- Citizens participating in voluntary, faith and community-based groups are important members of the disaster recovery team. They're always the first and last presence to help disaster survivors in their recoveries.
- Groups communicate with their local, parish, state and federal recovery partners to identify areas of need. They make sure resources—everything from volunteers donating their time and skills to hammers and nails—are going to the right places so survivors can get back home as quickly as possible.

### **How to Connect with Volunteers**

- There are several ways you can find help from volunteers who may be able to help you return home.
  - If you need referrals to charitable or volunteer groups, you can call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 or TTY 800-462-7585. Those who use 711/VRS can call 800-621-3362. Lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.
  - Call 211 or go online to [lavoad.org/resources/mapping-tool](http://lavoad.org/resources/mapping-tool) or [Louisiana211.org](http://Louisiana211.org) for lists of resources for parts of Louisiana.
  - Contact your local emergency management officials. Get their contact information for your parish's emergency management office online at [gohsep.la.gov/about/parishpa](http://gohsep.la.gov/about/parishpa).
- If you want to donate your time and skills you can contact Volunteer Louisiana online at [www.volunteerlouisiana.gov](http://www.volunteerlouisiana.gov) or email [enauck@crt.la.gov](mailto:enauck@crt.la.gov) and be put in touch with a voluntary group in need. Volunteer Louisiana is a state-run organization.
- Your church or civic group may be organizing or already involved in volunteer efforts to help survivors recover. Join in to help your neighbors move on with their lives. If neither are involved, consider starting the effort yourself.

## **Accomplishments of Volunteers in Louisiana**

- Members of voluntary, faith and community-based groups continue to identify survivors who have unmet needs—either from being uninsured, underinsured or receiving inadequate assistance from other sources—and figuring out ways to help their recoveries.
- Volunteers are mucking out flooded homes so repairs can begin and survivors move back home.
- Groups are still organizing efforts to help survivors get closer to moving back to safe, sanitary and secure homes. This includes finding ways to donate time and skills to muck out, repair and rebuild, building materials, furniture and appliances.

The local, state and federal recovery team continues coordinating with volunteers to identify ways they can best use their resources and get survivors back home.

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