

PRESS RELEASE

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2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc.

2-1-1 Helps Storm Victims with Disaster Recovery Information and Support

Largo, Florida - Sept. 14, 2016: Hurricane Irma has impacted thousands of Floridians, and 2-1-1 stands ready to help storm victims. Anyone in need of assistance should reach out to 2-1-1, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via telephone or text to connect with a trained specialist who provide information on disaster recovery services. **Reaching 2-1-1 is easy. You can dial 2-1-1 to reach a 2-1-1 specialist or you can text your zip code to 898211 and a 2-1-1 specialist will have a text conversation with you.**

2-1-1 specialists can provide information and help accessing the following disaster recovery related services:

- Emotional support
- Disaster recovery financial assistance programs
- Emergency Food assistance
- Cooling station locations
- Legal assistance
- Health clinic information
- Medical equipment support
- Volunteer and Donation opportunities at local charities needing support.
- Other non-life threatening emergencies

"Many seniors, families and individuals in our community have been negatively impacted emotionally, financially and/or physically due to Hurricane Irma. 2-1-1 is here for everyone no matter the extent of each unique situation. Please note that our call volume is higher than normal so we encourage everyone who needs help with disaster recovery information to first reach out to 2-1-1 via text to conserve battery life on their mobile devices." said Micki Thompson, President/CEO.

Texting a 2-1-1 specialist is easy. Just text your zip code to 898211 and then a specialist will reply. You can also dial 2-1-1 on your telephone to reach our contact center.

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2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in our community such as locating a food pantry, child care, recreation programs, and volunteer and donation opportunities. 2-1-1 also lists health and nutrition programs, such as

community fitness activities, classes on healthy eating, smoking cessation and free health screenings. 2-1-1 is a free confidential phone number available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week in 150 languages . 2-1-1's database contains approximately 3,000 resources with over 7,000 services. 2-1-1 TBC currently serves Pinellas and Hernando counties.

If you need help 24 hours a day with referrals or information on local non-profit organizations, please Dial 2-1-1 or send e-mail requests to media@211tampabay.org.

5500 Rio Vista Road, Suite 5500, Clearwater, FL 33760
Admin. Phone [727.888-5211](tel:727.888-5211)

Website: www.211tampabay.org

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