

Table of Contents

FEMA	2
Free Legal Aid Assistance	2
Where/How to dispose of sandbags:	2
Emergency Food Stamp Application (D-SNAP)	3
If your business was damaged/destroyed by the Hurricane:	4
Consumer Insurance Information Hotline:	6
Options available for oxygen-device dependent residents and dialysis patients	6
Cooling Station	7
FOOD DROP Tuesday 9/19/17 and Wednesday 9/20/17	7

Resources for Hurricane Irma Victims and Residents of Pinellas County

FEMA

If a client calls needing financial assistance and temporary housing assistance

- FEMA at www.FEMA.gov or call 1800-621-3362.

Free Legal Aid Assistance

- Reach volunteer lawyers at 866-550-2929. This is a partnership between the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Where/How to dispose of sandbags:

- While the storm caused some localized flooding, widespread flooding was not an issue for most county residents. Sandbags that did not come into contact with floodwaters can be safely reused or stored.
- **For sandbags that did not come into contact with floodwaters:**
- · Spread sand on lawns or landscape beds and recycle the bag or place it in your garbage.
- · Keep and store clean sandbags for preparation for future events.
- **For sandbags that have come into contact with floodwaters:**
- · Bring used sandbags, separated from other waste to the Pinellas County Solid Waste Disposal Facility, 3095 114th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Free of charge.
- Sandbags that have come in contact with flood water can become contaminated with bacteria, produce odors and are considered dirty. The sand brought to Solid Waste will be stockpiled, tested and analyzed. All non-contaminated sand will be recovered and reused for future county projects and/or sandbag issuance.
- Please do not dispose of any sand or full sandbags in your regular trash. The sand does not burn and will not convert to energy in the county's waste-to-energy facility. Furthermore, do not mix sandbags with yard debris. The sand is abrasive and damages equipment used to grind yard debris into mulch.
- For more information, please call the Department of Solid Waste at (727) 464-7500.

Emergency Food Stamp Application (D-SNAP)

- <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance/forms-of-assistance/5769>

Program Description The Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) gives food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damage caused by a natural disaster.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) must approve states to operate D-SNAP in a disaster area. The President must declare Individual Assistance for the disaster area and your state must request FNS approval to operate D-SNAP.

If approved for D-SNAP benefits, you will get an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card to access them. You use it just like a debit card to buy food at most local grocery stores.

General Program Requirements Because of the unique needs of disaster survivors, D-SNAP uses different standards than normal SNAP. If you would not normally qualify for SNAP, you may qualify for D-SNAP if you had one of the disaster-related expenses below:

- Home or business repairs
- Temporary shelter expenses
- Evacuation or relocation expenses
- Home or business protection
- Disaster-related personal injury, including funeral expenses
- Lost or no access to income due to the disaster, including reduced, terminated, or delayed receipt of income, for a large part of the benefit period
- In some cases, food loss after a disaster like flooding or power outages

If you're a current SNAP client, you can request a supplement when your state operates a D-SNAP if you meet the conditions below:

- You currently get benefits that are less than the monthly maximum, and
- You have losses from the disaster.

The supplement brings your benefits up to the maximum for your household size. This way benefits are equal between D-SNAP and SNAP households after a disaster.

Current SNAP clients may also request replacement benefits for food that was lost in the disaster and bought with SNAP benefits. Just contact your local office.

Application Process As a disaster survivor, you may apply for D-SNAP benefits at special sites in your community. Before the program begins, state agencies release information through local

media and press. This can help you learn the location of application sites, their days of operation, and the eligibility requirements.

You can also view a list of [state SNAP hotlines](#) to call for other benefit details. **Program Contact Information** To learn more, read the [D-SNAP Fact Sheet](#) (PDF, 143KB) or visit the [D-SNAP Resources](#) page.

If your business was damaged/destroyed by the Hurricane:

SBA Opens Pinellas Business Recovery Center at Pinellas County Economic Development in Largo

PINELLAS COUNTY, FL - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the opening of the Business Recovery Center (BRC) in Pinellas County on Sept. 18, to help businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma. SBA representatives at the Center can provide information about disaster loans, answer questions and assist businesses in completing the SBA application.

The Pinellas County Business Recovery Center will operate within the offices of [Pinellas County Economic Development](#).

Pinellas County Business Recovery Center

The EpiCenter - Pinellas County Economic Development

13805 58th Street North, Suite 1-200

Largo, Florida 33760

Opens: Monday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

"The Pinellas County Business Recovery Center at Pinellas County Economic Development will assist our local companies in their recovery from Hurricane Irma," said Suzanne Christman, Senior Business Development Manager at Pinellas County Economic Development. "By deploying our staff and hosting the team from the U.S. Small Business Administration, we hope to create an efficient and effective one-stop operation for local businesses to get the assistance they need to recover from the storm."

The SBA offers low-interest, long-term disaster loans for physical damage and working capital. To be considered for this assistance, business owners need to apply by the deadline. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018.

Additional information on the disaster loan program may be obtained by calling **SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955**, (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

[Pinellas County Economic Development](#) is open to assist Pinellas companies with their recovery. Please visit PCED.org/Irma for updates and business recovery resources.

- Pinellas County companies requiring assistance with Florida Disaster Bridge Loans, please phone (727) 453-7200.
- Pinellas County companies needing assistance with other items, please phone our main line at (727) 464-7332.
- [REPORT DAMAGE TO YOUR BUSINESS](#) from Hurricane Irma. This is the primary portal for private sector damage assessments and recovery. The information provided in this survey will be shared among various state and local agencies to expedite implementation of appropriate disaster relief programs for businesses. Shortcut: PCED.org/damage
- [APPLY FOR A SBA DISASTER LOAN](#). Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are available to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully covered by insurance. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018. Shortcut: PCED.org/SBALoan
- [APPLY FOR A SHORT-TERM FLORIDA DISASTER BUSINESS BRIDGE LOAN](#). The Bridge Loan provides short-term funding until an SBA Loan or insurance reimbursement arrives. The purpose of the Emergency Bridge Loan Program is to provide a source of expedient cash flow to Florida small businesses impacted by a disaster. These short-term, interest-free working capital loans are intended to "bridge the gap" between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, receipt of payments on insurance claims or federal disaster assistance. Shortcut: PCED.org/bridge

###

About Pinellas County Economic Development

Pinellas County Economic Development (PCED) works with existing businesses to encourage expansion and seeks to attract new companies with high-wage careers to our community. Through investment tools, business classes, professional consulting services, trade missions to open new markets, and strategic partnerships, PCED fosters a pro-business environment and promotes the ideal business climate of Pinellas County, Florida. Learn more at www.PCED.org.

Consumer Insurance Information Hotline:

Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and the Department of Financial Services have created a dedicated Hurricane Irma webpage with consumer-related assistance and information at www.myfloridacfo.com. In addition, the Department staffs an insurance consumer helpline (toll free: 877-693-5236) that offers consumers direct access to insurance experts who can answer many insurance-related questions and provide resources. There is help available to review insurance policies to understand coverages, file claims and assist in the event consumers have trouble communicating with their insurance company.

Options available for oxygen-device dependent residents and dialysis patients

As Pinellas County continues to experience widespread power outages in the wake of Hurricane Irma, residents who are oxygen dependent and without power, or are having trouble with equipment or supplies, can consider the following options:

- Contact your home health provider and/or oxygen supplier to learn about any options or resources that may be available.
- Contact family and friends who have power or could assist.
- Check on the availability of power with the community centers, associations or churches to which you belong.
- Seek temporary lodgings until power at your home is restored. For a list of hotels and motels in Pinellas County, go to www.pinellascounty.org. (Click "View Post-Storm Info" and look for "Business Openings." You can also visit the following link to see an up-to-date [list of hotels](#).)

For dialysis patients, several dialysis centers are now operating during normal business hours:

- FMC – Palm Harbor, [29296 U.S. Hwy 19 N., Ste. 1, Clearwater](#) (727) 785-9036
- FMC – North [St. Petersburg, 635 Fourth St. N., St. Petersburg](#) (727) 821-4654
- John Hopkins All Children's Dialysis, [501 Sixth Ave. S., St. Petersburg](#) (727) 767-4166

- St. Petersburg Kidney Care South, 4050 34th St. S., St. Petersburg (727) 867-1279
- St. Petersburg Kidney Care, [800 Third Ave. S., St. Petersburg](#) (727) 821-3201
- DaVita – Gulf Breeze Dialysis Center, 1519 Main St., Dunedin (727) 738-4425
- FMC Clearwater Countryside Dialysis, [26338 U.S. 19 N., Clearwater](#) (727) 723-8123

The following dialysis centers plan to reopen tomorrow (Wednesday, Sept. 13) during normal operating hours:

- DaVita – Bay Breeze Dialysis Clinic, [11550 Ulmerton Road, Largo](#) (727) 584-4047
- Fresenius Seminole Dialysis Center, [6450 Seminole Blvd., Seminole](#) (727) 393-5551

Pinellas County citizens are encouraged to get updates on Irma recovery efforts by visiting www.pinellascounty.org and following county social media accounts; search hashtag #PinellasIrma.

Cooling Station

See shared spreadsheet.

FOOD DROP Tuesday 9/19/17 and Wednesday 9/20/17

Ridgecrest YMCA, Largo, FL 10 am to noon.
1801 119th Street
Largo FL

Salvation Army Clearwater Wednesday 12 Noon.
1521 Druid Road
Clearwater FL