

# HURRICANE IAN RECOVERY RESOURCES

Here for You...



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The DeSoto County Chamber - partnered with so many others in our region - is here to help residents and local businesses recover. People and businesses in our community are suffering varying levels of damage and many have much to deal with in the coming weeks and months, including the aftermath of historic flooding and major impacts to agriculture/farming.

The response and leadership from state and local governments and agencies has been incredible, as has the commitment and selfless service of first responders, utilities, law enforcement, healthcare, school districts, non-profits, communities of faith, road & bridge department, and so many others. THANK YOU! The outpouring of support that people, businesses, agencies, and non-profits are offering to the most devastated areas of our region is overwhelmingly gratifying and inspiring.

We will be sharing lots of recovery information via email, our website, and social media, particularly as full electric and broadband infrastructure comes back online. THANK YOU to everyone who has lent a hand to help your neighbor, contributed manpower, funds, or items to support recovery efforts.

## IMPORTANT ONLINE AND LIVE CALL RESOURCES:

- **DeSoto County BOCC** - The County website has important and timely updates, including Points of Distribution (PODS), gas stations, donations, trash pickup, and more.
- **FloridaDisaster.biz** - The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated the Business Damage Assessment Survey in response to Hurricane Ian. Survey responses will allow the state to expedite Hurricane Ian recovery efforts by gathering data and assessing the needs of affected businesses. IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHARE YOUR INFORMATION ON DAMAGE/LOSS ASAP.
- **FEMA.gov/disaster/hurricane-ian** - FEMA published an Ian webpage that includes information on how to apply for assistance, donate, volunteer, dispel rumors, and more. The page is available in multiple languages.
- **DisasterAssistance.gov** - Florida survivors can apply for federal assistance at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), or by using the FEMA App. Survivors using a relay service such as a video relay service, captioned telephone service, or others, give the FEMA operator the number for that service. To reduce your wait time on phone, try calling early in the morning or later at night.
- **FloodSmart.gov** - FEMA National Flood Insurance Program policyholders can start a claim when evacuated. They should ask their agent about advance payments to receive up to \$20,000. If you need help reaching your flood insurance agent or carrier, call 877-336-2627. Visit [Floodsmart.gov](http://Floodsmart.gov) to start a flood insurance claim.
- **SBA.gov** - Small Business Administration disaster loans may be available to businesses, homeowners, renters, and nonprofit organizations in affected Florida counties. Applicants may apply at [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) under declaration #17644. For help, call 800-659-2955 or send an email to [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov). We will share information if a Business Recovery Center opens in DeSoto, Manatee, and/or Sarasota County for in-person assistance with loan applications.
- **EnterpriseFlorida.com/disaster-assistance** - Online compilation of recovery resources and links.
- **SBDCTampabay.com/business-continuity-disaster-preparedness** - Online compilation of resources and links.
- **Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990** - Mental health resources are available. Survivors experiencing emotional distress can call or text the Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990. The national hotline provides free 24/7, crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.
- **Suncoast Cares - Dial 2-1-1** - Residents in DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties can access 2-1-1 by phone, email, chat or text (just text your zip code to 898-211). Reaching out will get you connected to a multilingual 2-1-1 specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations providing critical services.