Connecting Volunteers & Administering The Florida Disaster Fund

Christy Rojas

volunteerflorida
Volunteer Florida

- Who/What is VF
- Cash Confirm Connect
- How to connect Volunteers & Coordinated efforts
- Volunteer Connect
- Florida Disaster Fund
Volunteer Florida

The lead agency for volunteerism and national service in Florida, administers 31.7 million in federal, state and local funding and national service and volunteer programs across the state.

Volunteer Florida also leads initiatives throughout Florida that uses volunteerism as a strategy to meet needs.

In times of disasters Volunteer Florida is the Emergency Support Function 15.
In the wake of the devastating impact of Hurricane Andrew in 1994, Volunteer Florida began serving as Florida’s lead agency for mobilizing volunteers and coordinating donations before, during and after disasters. Formally recognized as the Florida Commission on Community Service, Volunteer Florida receives federal and state funding, along with private contributions, to expand national service, promote disaster resiliency, and advocate for volunteerism in Florida. The Florida Disaster Funds is administered by the Volunteer Florida Foundation as a direct support organization of Volunteer Florida.
Coordinates Volunteer Groups who respond to disasters

Works with the Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and local and state government emergency management agencies to meet volunteer and donations needs.

Collect data on voluntary agency activities for statewide reporting and dissemination

Administers the Florida Disaster Fund

Houses CERT Program
Administers national Service programs such as AmeriCorps throughout the state

Exists to endorse volunteerism as a solution to critical issues in Florida

Manages Florida’s Official volunteer opportunities platform
Is Florida Hurricane Prone?
Absolutely!
All Hazards Approach

Lightning

Tornado

Hurricanes

Mass Migration

Bio-Terrorism

Fire

Flood

Pandemic
All Hazard Planning

Regardless of the type of event, people need ...

- Water
- Food
- Shelter
- Financial assistance
- Other types of help
How Volunteer Florida Connects Volunteers & Coordinate Efforts
Categories of Volunteers:

Affiliated Volunteers

Spontaneous Volunteers
Characteristics of Affiliated Volunteers

- Attached to a relief agency
- Specialized skills
- Training & certification
- Group or Individual
Characteristics of Spontaneous Volunteers

- Timely help
- Not attached to any organization
- May be skilled/unskilled
- May be from affected area
- May be Individuals or groups
- Large numbers
- Passionate / compassionate
Virtual Registration

47,000 Volunteers registered following Hurricane Irma

Connection Volunteers to organizations

What’s new

Connect groups with LTRG
Florida’s official volunteer opportunities platform – VOLUNTEER CONNECT!
Organizations can use it as an OUTREACH TOOL:

**PROMOTE** volunteer opportunities, searchable by:
- Population/age group served
- Date
- Location
- Issue area

**DIRECT** volunteers to an organization’s pre-established website (if applicable)

Organizations can use it as an MANAGEMENT TOOL

- **SCHEDULE** volunteers by general availability or specific shift requests
- **TRACK** volunteer sign-up, onsite attendance and service hours
- **COMMUNICATE** with volunteer teams or individuals
- **PARTICIPATE** in exclusive volunteer management trainings
DURING DISASTERS, organizations can:

ACCESS a database of interested volunteers in the affected area

INCLUDE volunteer opportunities in Volunteer Florida communications

WWW.VOLUNTEERFLORIDA.ORG
VOLUNTEER@VOLUNTEERFLORIDA.ORG
Why Cash is Preferred in Times of Disaster
Cash. Confirm. Connect
The Florida Disaster Fund
Florida Disaster Fund

• The Florida Disaster Fund was created in 2004.
• Is a resource to fill gaps in Florida Disaster Recovery.
• Is a private fund for the State of Florida.
• VF works with private, public, and non-governmental organizations to fund disaster relief and recovery programs.
• The Florida Disaster Fund provides financial assistance to qualifying organizations meeting disaster-caused needs in Florida with a focus on support for disaster response and long-term recovery activities.
What’s New to the FDF

• Additional Funds will be made available for organizations that are engaged in Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael recovery efforts
• Application window will open August 12, 2019 and deadline for submissions being August 23
• Hurricane Irma Recovery activities will be $5,000,000
• Hurricane Michael recovery activities $3,000,000
• Visit Grants Page at Volunteerflorida.org
Who is eligible for Florida Disaster Fund grants?

An organization applying for a Florida Disaster Fund grant must:

1. Be responding to a need created by a qualifying disaster in the geography specified by the disaster declaration;

2. Be classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, a faith-based entity headquartered or registered in the State of Florida, a municipality or local government acting as a fiscal agent, or an organization making use of a fiscal agent with such a designation; and

3. Complete an online application.

Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply for FY 2019 – 2020 grants if they have completed all close out paperwork on the previous grant. Current grant recipients are not eligible to apply for FY 2019 – 2020 grants unless they have expended at least 75% of their funds from any previous grant award prior to submitting a subsequent application.
What is required in the application process?

The online application must be completed, including support documentation required to qualify for consideration:

1. Agreement and Certification Form
2. Project Budget
3. Evidence of Tax-Exempt Status
4. Board of Directors
5. Most Recent Fiscal Year Budget
6. Financial Statements (audited, if available)
7. W9
8. Most recent 990
9. Task List
What are Typical Funding Priorities?

• Projects that meet needs not covered through other sources
• Applicants that demonstrate integration of volunteers
• Projects that can:
  • be initiated within 30 days and completed
  • demonstrate measurable impact within the first 12 months
Are Multiple Applications by the Same Organization Permitted?

No entity may submit two applications under expedited processing.
Over $5,000,000 awarded and paid

For Hurricanes Irma and Michael
Hurricane Irma

Damage assessed at $50 Billion

Hurricane Irma slammed the Florida Keys on September 10, 2017 with Category 5 winds up to 185 miles per hour. The storm caused billion in damages, and littered the Florida coast with debris.
Our Partners in Action

**American Red Cross**
Red Cross provided 1.6 million meals and snacks, distributed 1.8 million relief items, provided more than 555,300 overnight shelter stays, and made more than 62,500 health and mental health contacts.

**Team Rubicon**
Team Rubicon received funding form the FDF and utilized it in missions to clear debris and clean out houses. Currently, they have a rebuilding program in Collier County.

**The Salvation Army**
The Salvation Army received funding from the FDF and worked to provide meals, waters, food boxes, clothing, and much more. Some figures include 4,833 nights of shelter, 48,969 household items, and 65,733 volunteer hours.
How Funding Has Been Utilized

**Branches, Inc**
Working in Miami-Dade, Branches provided food distribution, case work services, and financial assistance. They also provided financial education and coaching about various services they provide.

**Crisis Clean-Up**
They worked statewide to connect relief organizations with the nearly 10,000 work orders and requests for assistance that were submitted by Floridians following the hurricane via their own online database.

**Centro Campesino**
Providing services in Miami-Dade county to give food, water, financial assistance, and case work services.

**NECHAMA**
Initially working in Flagler Beach, NECHAMA worked and completed work on 45 homes. Shortly after, they moved their assistance to Jacksonville where they are still operating.
The Impact of Partnership

- United Way has been and continues to be a valuable partner to Volunteer Florida through disaster Response Activities.

- The chapters active in Hurricane Irma include:
  - United Way of Brevard County
  - United Way of Broward County – Broward Cares
  - United Way of Central Florida
  - United Way of Charlotte County
  - United Way of Collier County
  - United Way of the Florida Keys
  - United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties
  - United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee
  - United Way of Miami-Dade – Helping Hands
  - United Way of North Central Florida
  - United Way of Palm Beach County
  - United Way of Northeast Florida
  - United Way of Suncoast
  - United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties
Hurricane Michael

Winds of 155 miles per hour.

Hurricane Michael made landfall October 10, 2018 and left behind significant damage and loss to the people living in 12 counties impacted by the storm.
17 Organizations received funding during Round One of FDF funding for Hurricane Michael.

Round Two saw 6 organizations receive funding for continued recovery efforts.

$350,000 For Advertising

COMMCAST

$350,000 Directly to FDF
Our Partners in Action

American Red Cross
- Red Cross provided and distributed over 2 million meals and snacks.
- Distributed over 270,200 emergency relief items.
- Provided over 45,000 overnight stays in shelters.

Chipola Area Habitat for Humanity
- Habitat for Humanity have greatly aided families in debris removal and home repairs.
- Before Michael housing was a focus, now its in the spotlight for Habitat as thousands are without affordable homes.

SBP, Inc.
- Saint Bernard’s Project has been serving the residents of Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties during recovery.
- They have mucked homes, trained other volunteer organizations, and have served over 5,000 hours.
Response Funding from the Florida Disaster Fund

All the funding for Hurricane Michael so far has gone towards response efforts.

Round One Funding $425,000
Round Two Funding $150,000
How Funding Has Been Utilized

**ToolBank USA**
ToolBank loaned over $650,000 worth of tools and equipment to 9 different organizations to aid in recovery and rebuilding efforts in the panhandle.

**Night Runners Mobile Crisis Services**
Night Runners provided hot meals and pet food to families in need following the hurricane. They also set up a field kitchen, extending their operations.

**Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**
The Diocese removed trees, debris and replaced roofs of churches in the area. This enabled these buildings to be used for shelter and food distribution.

**Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida**
Catholic Charities served 15,000 hot meals. They also provided Christmas to 800 children, who otherwise would not have had it.
Overall Impact of Volunteer Organizations in Disaster Response

- Volunteer Florida partners have made a large impact on the recovering areas of Florida.
  - Mobilized 62,945
  - Served over 1 million hours
  - Provided 3.9 million meals
  - Housed 44,750 people in 50 shelters
  - Removed 13,993 trees

- And the numbers just keep going up.
The Work Continues

The rode to recovery for Irma is still not done, and not even close for Michael. The Florida Disaster Fund will continue to find grantees and release funds to provide the necessary assistance and fill the gaps for the survivors of these massive storms.
Questions?
Christy Rojas
Emergency Management Deputy Director
Christy@VolunteerFlorida.org
850-414-7400 Office
850-363-5349 Mobile