



Family Recovery Project

The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and the Statewide Family Networks Technical Assistance Center partnering on behalf of children and youth with mental health care needs and their families impacted by disaster

A special thanks to Family Voices (www.familyvoices.org) for sharing their resource list and partnering with the Family Recovery Project to ensure family leaders have access to timely and accurate information

Recovery Resources

9-26-05

ASSISTANCE POSTER

The poster for Hurricane Katrina evacuees from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The poster includes national telephone numbers, and state-specific telephone numbers contained in the drop-down boxes on the following benefits and services:

The text version is at <http://www.hhs.gov/katrina/postertext.html>

The .pdf is at <http://www.astho.org/pubs/HelpIsOnline050915.pdf>

CRISIS HOTLINE

The Department of Health and Human Services announced the availability of a toll-free hotline for people in crisis in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. By dialing 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), callers will be connected to a network of local crisis centers across the country that is committed to crisis counseling. Callers to the hotline will receive counseling from trained staff at the closest certified crisis center in the network.

DONATIONS – POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE

American Red Cross: (<http://www.redcross.org>) 1-800-435-7669 or 1-800-HELP-NOW.

America's Second Harvest: (<http://www.secondharvest.org/>) for hunger relief. 1-800-344-8070.

Catholic Charities: (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>) (800) 919-9338.

Church World Services: (<http://www.churchworldservice.org>) 1-800-297-1516.

[Heart to Heart International](#)

Network for Good: (<http://www.networkforgood.org>) provides easy access for donations to a number of charities including the Humane Society of America (for pets,) and various chapters of the United Way in Florida and Louisiana.

Salvation Army: (<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>)

Feed the Children: (<http://www.feedthechildren.org/>) 800-525-7575.

Operation Blessing: (<http://www.operationblessing.org/>) for hunger relief. 800-730-2537.

United Methodist Committee on Relief: (<http://www.umcor.org/>) 800-554-8583.

Noah's Wish: (<http://www.noahswish.org/>) Rescue and shelter for animals during disasters.

Send checks to Noah's Wish, P.O. Box 997, Placerville, Calif. 95667, 530-622-9313.

Convoy of Hope: (<http://www.convoyofhope.org/>) General disaster relief. 417-823-8998.

Samaritan's Purse: (<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>) General disaster relief. 800-567-8183.

EDUCATION

Many state education agencies and local school districts are providing guidance to schools on enrolling children displaced by the hurricane. The following state education agencies outlines the federal law regarding the placement of homeless children in school and can be useful to parents and local educators in understanding both the federal law and the importance of assisting displaced families in enrolling their children.

Alabama: <http://www.alsde.edu/HTML/HurricaneKatrina.asp>
Florida: <http://www.firn.edu/doe/hurricane/> 1-877-352-2731
Georgia: <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/> 1-800-311-3627
Louisiana: <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/index.html> 1-877-453-2721
Mississippi: <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/> 1-601-359-3764
Texas: www.tea.state.tx.us/taa/comm083105.html 1-800-957-5109
Virginia: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/NewHome/pressreleases/2005/sep1.html>
Tennessee: <http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/education/index.html> 1-(615) 532-6314

FEDERAL PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Mental Health Hotline (national 1-800 number) Head Start Services (national 1-800 number) TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families--state specific number) SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program--state-specific number) Elder Care (national 1-800 number) Medicare (national 1-800 number) Medicaid (state-specific number) www.hhs.gov web address

FOOD STAMPS

The Food and Nutrition Service, run by the US Department of Agriculture, has taken several actions to expedite and facilitate the Food Stamp enrollment and receipt for evacuees of Hurricane Katrina in their destination states, as identified on the webpage found at www.fns.usda.gov/fns/. This site's "Newsroom" section provides the latest efforts to date.

Forums

Students affected by Hurricane Katrina.
[Discussion Forum](#)

List serve for all who are interested in discussion and problem-solving for the urgent and emergent issues of hurricane survivors with disabilities, individuals may select either individual emails or daily digests. To describe send an email to this address: katrinadisability-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

To obtain information about resources and for hurricane survivors with disabilities go to www.katrinadisability.infor

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Louisiana and Mississippi - Foster and adoptive parents should be advised that they should call in to request payment. They will be asked some basic information and their check will be forwarded to them. In **Louisiana** call 1-800-2593428; In **Mississippi** call 1-800-821-9157

GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF

There are several agencies you may want to contact to find out what assistance may be available if you are a victim of a Hurricane Katrina or any other natural disaster:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/resources_katrina.shtm which provides assistance for people whose homes were damaged or destroyed by a disaster and assistance for people who lost their jobs as a result of a disaster. **FEMA** and other federal, state, local and volunteer agencies offer disaster assistance in several forms. To learn more visit the Disaster Assistance Process for Individuals, www.fema.gov/about/process. To register see Register for Disaster Assistance online, www.fema.gov/register.shtm.

Visit www.disasterhelp.gov, an online resource site for disaster information and assistance. This site allows individuals to apply for disaster assistance, has disaster preparedness

guides, links to various disaster agencies and organizations, and much more.

American Red Cross www.redcross.org/where/where.html

The Salvation Army's Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN): SATERN has been activated to help individuals send a health and welfare request regarding family and friends they otherwise are unable to locate. You can access SATERN on the Salvations Army's Web site at: www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn.nsf

NOLA.com: This Web site, which provides information on New Orleans, now includes a missing person forum at <http://www.nola.com/forums/searching>.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

A wide range of hazards, including downed power lines and possible exposure to fungi or toxins, can exist after a disaster has occurred. Those involved in cleanup and recovery efforts, homeowners and business owners may find the following information helpful.

For general information, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has published information on [hazards of natural disaster cleanup work](#) and [emergency response resources](#). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has published information specific to [cleanup after a flood](#). And the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published information on [workers' safety following hurricanes](#).

National Institutes of Health is offering telephone consultation services for primary care providers of patients in the Katrina Disaster zone. Call 1-866-887-2842.

HIPAA INFORMATION

HIPAA Privacy Rule allows covered entities to share patient information to assist in disaster relief efforts, and to assist patients in receiving the care they need. This information you can readily access from the OCR website, <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>, by clicking on A Hurricane Katrina Bulletin: Disclosing PHI in Emergency Situations.

HOUSING

This site allows people to post their available housing for victims of the hurricane. www.hurricanehousing.org

Hud establishes single toll-free number (1-888-297-8685) to help disaster victims with all housing concerns with assistance available from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., CST, seven days a week to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. www.hud.gov

HEALTH TiPS for Healthy Shelter Living was developed and can be accessed on the Foundation's website <http://foundation.acponline.org/shelvertips>

HOUSING - SPECIAL SHELTERS

Federal Medical Shelters (FMCs) will be located at Department of Defense (DoD) facilities throughout the Gulf region to provide basic health care services for Hurricane Katrina victims. The first ten shelters will be located at Fort Polk, La. (4 Federal Medical Shelters); Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. (2 Federal Medical Shelters); Meridian Naval Air Station, Miss. (2 Federal Medical Shelters); and Mississippi National Air Guard Facility (2 Federal Medical Shelters). Each shelter has a 250-bed capacity, and HHS will provide the equipment and supplies needed to support each shelter. Up to 40 medical shelters will be created. Visit www.hhs.gov for more information.

Special triage telephone lines are being established in each region to accept the calls of citizens seeking special needs sheltering. Citizens with special needs seeking shelter must call telephone number in their area BEFORE attempting to access a shelter. Alexandria - 800-841-5778; Shreveport - 800-841-5776; Baton Rouge - 800-349-1372; Monroe - 866-280-7287; Houma/Thibodaux - 800-228-9409; Slidell/Hammond - 866-280-7724; Lafayette - 800-901-3210; Lake Charles - 866-280-2711

An emergency national housing drive connects empty beds with hurricane victims who desperately need a place to stay. You can post your offer of housing (a spare room, extra bed, even a decent couch) and search for available housing online. Housing is most urgently needed within reasonable driving distance (about 300 miles) of the affected areas in the Southeast, especially New Orleans. But no matter where you live, your housing could still make a world of difference to a person or family in need. <http://www.hurricanehousing.org>

IDENTIFICATION

Louisiana's Department of Motor Vehicles has sent a request out to all jurisdictions to be sympathetic to its citizens who are seeking to obtain photo identification. Many citizens have been displaced and have nothing but the clothing on their backs. These victims need photo identification in order to conduct business, have access to federal aid, etc. Louisiana has a repository of digital photos for all driver's licenses and identification cards issued. If any jurisdiction has a question concerning the identification of an individual who claims to be a Louisiana resident who has been displaced, please feel free to e-mail either [Carla Dorris-cdorris@dps.state.la.us](mailto:Carla.Dorris@dps.state.la.us) or [Ronald Marson rmarson@dps.state.la.us](mailto:Ronald.Marson@dps.state.la.us). They will be able to send an e-mail with the correct photo. This will provide some basic identification during this period of recovery. In addition, any jurisdiction who has questions can contact either Dorris at (225) 925-6751 or Marson at (225) 925-1709 who will provide any assistance they can. As the phone lines are being repaired, e-mail is the preferred method of contact

INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

Consumers are encouraged to contact their insurance carrier for assistance with questions about claims or their policies.

[Insurance Assistance](#)

State Government Insurance Help Lines

Texas Department of Insurance Consumer Help Line 800-252-3439

Alabama Department of Insurance Consumer Help Line 800-433-3966, 334-241-4141
(outside Alabama)

Arkansas Department of Insurance Consumer Help Line 800-852-5494, 501-371-2640

Tennessee Department of Insurance Consumer Help Line 800-342-4029, 615-741-2241

Texas-Texas Department of Insurance's consumer Help Line - 1-800-252-3439

Individual Insurance Company Contact Info: <http://www.disasterinformation.org/findins.htm>

MAIL SERVICE

National Mail Service Updates:

<http://www.usps.com/communications/news/serviceupdates.htm>

MEDICAID/MEDICARE SERVICES

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has acted to assure that the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Programs will flex to accommodate the emergency health care needs of beneficiaries and medical providers in the Hurricane Katrina devastated states. Many of the programs' normal operating procedures will be relaxed to

speed provision of health care services to the elderly, children and persons with disabilities who depend upon them. Please visit the CMS website at www.cms.gov for the latest information regarding services. Updates are provided on the CMS website daily.

MILITARY

COUNSELING: Any military members or families in need of information and or counseling may call the Military OneSource: (1-800-342-9647) or <http://www.militaryonesource.com/>; user name: military; password onesource)

IDENTIFICATION CARDS: Identification Card Support to Those Affected by Hurricane Katrina: Many Service members and other eligible Common Access Card (CAC) recipients have been effected by Hurricane Katrina and find themselves without identification and no way to provide required documentation for the reissuance of credentials. To support those affected by the hurricane, the following guidance for the issuance of replacement cards is in place until further notice. A card will be issued to a member or eligible recipient without identification under the following guidelines:

- A member or eligible recipient will provide his/her Social Security Number and two other identifying pieces of information that can be verified in his/her Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system (DEERS) record (address, name of spouse, dependents birth dates, etc.)
- The fingerprint will be verified and if possible, the photo will be pulled to verify biometrics.
- If the fingerprint cannot be verified, a temporary card will be issued, not to exceed 90 days.
- The member or eligible recipient must have an address that matches the affected areas (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida) or some other reasonable explanation as to why Katrina left the member without his or her identifying documents.
- Not Eligible to Use Military OneSource? Military retirees and their family members, who are not eligible to use Military OneSource, may take advantage of free access to a 24-hour telephonic service provided by United Healthcare. In an August 29 press release, UnitedHealthcare announced that anyone in the Gulf Coast region affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina will have free access to a 24-hour telephonic service staffed by UnitedHealthcare's experienced master's-level counselors. Counselors can assist callers with the range of personal concerns that may affect victims of natural disasters. Callers can speak with counselors to help them handle the difficult emotions they may experience such as stress, anxiety and the grieving process. Callers also may receive referrals from a national database of community resources to help them with specific concerns, such as financial and legal issues. Callers who may have suffered physical trauma or symptoms will be transferred to a nurse who will be able to provide health education and decision support regarding the need for medical treatment. In addition, individuals who prefer to use the Internet may access disaster information at <http://www.liveandworkwell.com/>. The toll-free hotline, which is routinely available to UnitedHealthcare customers, can be accessed by dialing 1-866-615-8700. The service will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for as long as necessary. The service is free of charge to anyone affected by the hurricane. For more information on United Healthcare, go to: <http://www.unitedhealthcare.com/>.

HEALTH CARE: The TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) assures its beneficiaries and their families affected by Hurricane Katrina that their health care benefits will be maintained and service and support will continue during this time of tragedy. Affected beneficiaries in TRICARE Standard may seek care from any TRICARE-authorized provider. Displaced

beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime should call Humana Military Healthcare Services (HMHS) at 1-800-444-5445 for more information or to find a provider in their area.

MEDICATION: The TRICARE mail order pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI), is actively transferring prescriptions to retail pharmacies for those beneficiaries who participate in the program, upon the beneficiary's request. ESI is also updating patient information to include temporary mailing addresses so prescriptions will reach the beneficiaries at their new location. For more information about the mail order pharmacy benefit, beneficiaries may call 1-866-DOD-TMOP (1-866-363-8667).

OTHER: Other resources available to active duty members and their families include Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647 or <http://www.militaryonesource.com/>. The TRICARE website, <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>, also includes important information for displaced or affected beneficiaries. Beneficiaries may also contact beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators (BCACs), debt collection assistance officers (DCAOs), and family support representatives at local military installations. If beneficiaries are unable to obtain assistance at any of the named resources, they may call 1-800-DOD-CARES.

TRICARE Ensures Beneficiaries Affected by Hurricane Can Access their Pharmacy Benefit and Obtain Needed Refills: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/news/2005/news0528.cfm>

MISSING PERSONS

Numbers family members can call to report missing or stranded are to the Louisiana State Police who are coordinating rescuing efforts:

225-922-0325 225-922-0332 225-922-0333 225-922-0334 225-922-0335
225-922-0341 225-925-7398

In Mississippi - State EOC
601-360-0054

In Alabama, for missing-not distress American Red Cross
866-438-4636

An excellent source of information on how to locate a family member or friend affected by Hurricane Katrina is:

http://firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane_Katrina_Recovery.shtml

In order to assist the United States Coast Guard in Hurricane Katrina Search and Rescue efforts, submit a missing person recovery assistance request at

<http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>

For urgent Search and Rescue requests contact the State Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The emergency numbers are as follows:
Phone: (225) 925-7708, (225) 925-7709, (225) 925-3511, or (225) 925-7412

To inquiry about family and friends that did not evacuate the Greater New Orleans area contact the American Red Cross at the following number: (866) 438-4636

The Salvation Army's Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN): SATERN has been activated to help individuals send a health and welfare request regarding family and friends they otherwise are unable to locate. You can access SATERN on the Salvations Army's Web site at: www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn.nsf

NOLA.com: This Web site, which provides information on New Orleans, now includes a missing person forum at <http://www.nola.com/forums/searching>.

The American Red Cross has created and launched the Family Links Registry, which will aid individuals who are seeking loved ones and family members in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The Family Links Registry can be accessed by visiting www.redcross.org or by calling: 1-877-LOVED-1S (1-877-568-3317) to register.

PETS

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS): Humans aren't the only victims of Katrina's wrath. HSUS has deployed its Disaster Animal Response Teams to the region who are equipped to respond to the needs of all animals including pets, horses, farm animals, and wildlife. For more, go to <http://www.hsus.org/>.

SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS AND PAYMENTS

Go to the website for more links: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency/>

Social Security Information for People Affected by Hurricane Katrina - The Social Security Administration is doing everything it can to ensure that monthly payments get to beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Katrina.

- For paper checks - The United States Postal Service (USPS) has suspended mail service in some areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. USPS is establishing temporary mail delivery stations so you can pick up your Social Security check. To find these locations, check the USPS National Mail Service Update page.
- To help prevent identity fraud, USPS will ask you for a photo ID.
- If you are not able to go to a temporary mail delivery station, you can go to any open Social Security office and request an immediate payment.
- For Direct Deposit If you receive your Social Security payment by direct deposit, your Social Security payment is scheduled to be deposited to your account as usual. However, if you experience any difficulty getting your payment, you can go to any open Social Security office and request an immediate payment.
- For more information on the nearest open Social Security office, you can call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

SPECIAL NEEDS

Autism – Children

Emergency housing for families of children with autism and other developmental disorders at Camp Yocona in Toccoola, MS. The camp can accommodate up to 350 people in cabins that can sleep up to 8 people each. Each group of 4-5 cabins has a bathhouse. A large commercial kitchen and dining hall is available and a volunteer will be staffing the kitchen to prepare meals including gluten and casein free options for children on restricted diets. Contact the National Autism Association toll free at 1-866-622-6733, or Peg Pickering at 662-488-9619.

The ARC of US

Website for anyone who knows of hurricane victims in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi with special needs and/or families who need immediate services and supports. The site will be particularly useful for case managers, service coordinators, state officials and other advocates, but the site is open for use by anyone. www.thearclink.org

Cancer

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

List of oncology service providers throughout the US who are willing to treat cancer patients displaced by Hurricane Katrina which will be continually updated, can be accessed on their web site at

http://www.asco.org/ac/1,1003,12-002144-00_18-0041946%20,00.asp

ASCO has also established an online message board to help doctors and patients locate and communicate with other doctors. Messages can be posted on line or you can phone an information specialist at the National Cancer Institute M-F AM – 4:30 PM EST at 1-800-422-6237 (TTY: 1-800-332-8615)

Disaster Resources for People with Disabilities and Emergency Managers
<http://www.jik.com/disaster.html>

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Consumers calling 1-888-966-6468 will receive information about open home medical equipment locations in the Gulf Coast region, or be directed to other locations nearest them for home oxygen and home medical equipment products and services. Invacare associates have been in contact with the Red Cross and other disaster relief agencies to assess their needs for oxygen and other medical products and equipment. www.invacare.com

Medical Supplies Donations – Houston, Tx

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Houston and the University of Houston Families CAN Program are organizing an effort to accumulate & disseminate medical supplies, special formulas, large diapers, syringes, and other "durable medical equipment" that children with medical/physical disabilities or chronic illnesses need on a frequent/daily basis. The UH Families CAN Program will direct donors and this special population of Katrina families to UCP of Greater Houston. Please note also that Families CAN is also offering to assist this population of Katrina victims with information and referral to resources they may need with regard to their children with medical/physical disabilities or chronic illnesses.

Families CAN Program

Parent Education Project
University of Houston (SSC #1 210)
Houston, TX 77204-3025
713-743-5435 or 713-743-5592
Contacts: Elaine Hime or Shelley Townsend
ehime@mail.uh.edu; stownsend3@uh.edu

United Cerebral Palsy (in Houston)

4550 Bissonnet; Suite 340
Bellaire, TX 77401
713-838-9050 x.304, 5, 6
Contact: Elise Hough
Email: ucp@ucphouston.org
Website: www.ucphouston.org

Emergency Preparedness Initiative (EPI) National Organization on Disability
<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageID=11>

Hard of Hearing and Deaf

Agencies serving individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina are reporting that their phone lines and offices are shut down for the time being. Coverage for pagers may be weak at times due to loss of network capabilities. As a result, people wanting to find information on recovery and rescue efforts in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina are encouraged in Louisiana or displaced westward in Texas to contact CSD of Oklahoma during regular business hours at: www.c-s-d.org (click on locations, then Oklahoma)
(866) 845-7445 Voice/TTY (Toll Free)
(918) 835-7445 Voice/TTY
(918) 835-6459 FAX
csdoklahoma@c-s-d.org

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USAAC)

Assisting individuals who rely on AAC, their families and the professionals serving them who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. USAAC will help children and adults who can benefit from ACC (including professionals, agencies, rehabilitation centers, hospitals and

organizations serving them) to gain access to AAC equipment (devices, communication displays, batteries, etc) AAC materials, (books, software, etc) and ACC/AT services.

<http://www.ussaac.org/katrina/index.php>

Family Recovery Project

Partnership project with the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and United Advocates for Children of California - Technical Assistance Center to ensure long term coordination, technical assistance, resources, and support to the Executive Directors of Family Networking Grant organizations that are in areas impacted by disaster. These individuals will be known as Family Recovery Leaders, and will be responsible for community mobilization within their organization and state to ensure that families and children with mental health needs get the support they need to return as quickly as possible to a stable life where they can begin to rebuild hope.

1-850-926-2523; Conni Wells, Project Coordinator

Family Voices (families of children and youth with special health care needs)

Begun a campaign to allow work with local rescue and shelter agencies to find the families whose children need special help, give them the emotional and physical support they require, and get them to resources. Because our volunteer leaders, all of them parents or family members of children and youth with special health care needs, are part of the Family Voices national grassroots network, we are working with state and local organizations in the communities where hurricane evacuees are now being sent. Visit – www.familyvoices.org for more information or call 1-888-835-5669.

National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)

Reaching out to transplant patients who had to evacuate areas hit by Hurricane Katrina to reconnect them to lifesaving transplant-related services. NMDP has support and resources for bone marrow or cord blood transplant patients including those who were preparing for transplant and searching the National Marrow Donor Program registry. NMDP can also assist those in need of post-transplant medical care. NMDP case managers can be contacted at 1 (888) 999-6743.

Family Village

Developed a list of disability-specific resources for victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, this website also lists disability organizations that are collecting funds and goods.

www.familyvillage.wisc.edu

General Disabilities

<http://www.katrinadisability.info/> has been set up to provide information to people with disabilities and their families who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. New information and resources will be added as it becomes available, so people should visit often for information and updates.

Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)

Web page and message board at www.ilru.org (top of page) to assist hurricane survivors with disabilities. A new listing at ILRU is

<http://ilru.org/html/whatsnew/announcements/katrina.html> which is a listing of Hurricane Katrina Relief Assistance for people with Disabilities. They are also operating a disaster management Toll Free line for independent living and statewide independent living councils. 1-866-203-5111 hours of operation are from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Central Time.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Resource guide and a Katrina Hurricane Relief Fund to assist consumers and families affected by the hurricane. www.nami.org or call 1-800-950-6264.

The National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA)

"Ways to Support Disability Related Relief Efforts for Hurricane Katrina." They include links for information, organizations: www.spinalcord.org or call 1-800-962-9629.

The Spina Bifida Association (SBA)

Hurricane Emergency Life-Support Program including working with industry to secure essential equipment, working with its chapters to distribute supplies when the infrastructure in the region has been restored, and develop an Emergency Preparedness program for future emergency situations. Also links to SBA Chapter and Clinic Lists. www.sbaa.org or call 1-800-621-3141

TASH (serving persons with severe disabilities)

Information for TASH members and colleagues regarding efforts to assist disability related organizations and individuals with disabilities and their families in the Gulf States and the states receiving refugees from the storm and floods. We will be updating this page with additional information as we receive it. Visit – www.tash.org/katrinainfo.htm or call 1-410-828-8274.

United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCP)

Consumers and their families, employees and volunteers can call 800-872-5827 to receive information, as well as leave messages about their personal status – www.ucpgno.org. You can also get additional information at www.ucp.org.

STATE-SPECIFIC NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

ALABAMA

Attached

ARKANSAS

Attached

FLORIDA

Attached

GEORGIA

Georgia has opened its Pre-K Program to children from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Story: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/09-06-2005/0004101000&EDATE=>

INDIANA

Admitting all evacuees into grades K-12, and granting high school credits based testing their knowledge <http://www.doe.state.in.us/reed/newsr/2005/09-September/disaster090105.html>

LOUISIANA

Attached

MISSISSIPPI

Attached

NORTH CAROLINA

State Medicaid officials will provide emergency medical services to Medicaid eligible Hurricane Katrina victims who have temporarily relocated to North Carolina.

www.dhhs.state.nc.us

TEXAS

Attached

STATE UPDATES

Stateline.org will compile daily news updates on how states are responding to the hurricanes on a special issue page. [Click here to read more.](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT

To file unemployment

Florida: 866-352-2345

Alabama: 800-361-4524

Mississippi OR Louisiana: 800-204-2418

VETERANS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 /PRNewswire/ -- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has set up a toll-free number for veterans who normally receive health care at VA facilities in New Orleans, Gulfport, Miss., and Biloxi, Miss. The number can also be used by family members concerned about the location of veterans who were hospitalized at those facilities. The Gulfport facility has been closed, and the New Orleans medical center has been evacuated. The Biloxi facility is still operational.

The number is 1-800-507-4571. It will be staffed continuously for the duration of the emergency.

By calling that number, people can find out about:

- * Receiving health care for veterans evacuated from the storm area;
- * Receiving prescription drugs for veterans in the stricken area;
- * Locating evacuated VA patients; and
- * Any other health care questions for veterans in the area affected by the storm.

WEBCAST

Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) Web cast on issues specific to students with disabilities who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The presenter Elizabeth A. Greczek is the Education Staff Attorney for the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN).

To link to this Web cast and download accompanying materials visit:

<http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/calendar.html>

For instructions on how to access a Web cast visit:

<http://www.ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/instructions.html>

Please visit this site ahead of time to test and ensure your computer is configured and updated to participate in the Web cast.