



American Red Cross
Michigan Region

American Red Cross
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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Flood-Ravaged Michigan Communities Enter New Recovery Stage ***Red Cross Caseworkers Assisting Families, Federal Aid Now Available***

FLINT, MI July 15, 2020 — As emergency sheltering operations begin to transition displaced residents to more permanent housing options, the American Red Cross remains focused on helping communities in the aftermath of flooding across the Great Lakes Bay Region. Residents impacted by recent floods can now also apply for new Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) financial assistance, either online at DisasterAssistance.gov, or by calling: 800-621-FEMA. For the most up to date information, visit: redcross.org/Michigan.

Working closely with local emergency management and community groups, the Red Cross and its partners opened a combined total of 25 shelters for people needing temporary emergency lodging. Nearly 300 Red Cross workers from 22 states and territories, many working remotely due to COVID-19 precautions, have been deployed to help local residents during the relief operation.

These operations provided for the immediate needs of evacuated residents, including a safe place to stay, food, water, medicine and basic health services, emotional support and other support resources. To date, community groups and the Red Cross have supported more than 7,738 overnight stays for residents affected by recent flooding evacuation orders.

Temporary shelters are used to get as many people out of harm's way and to a safe place as quickly as possible during a storm or disaster and are meant to shelter people for only short periods of time. Red Cross caseworkers continue helping current shelter residents to plan for the future and are assisting with finalizing housing arrangements in partnership with other community organizations and FEMA.

"When disaster strikes, hundreds of people, businesses and community organizations step up to the plate to help," said Amy Meister, American Red Cross East Central Bay Chapter Executive Director. "We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of these businesses, organizations and individuals who made significant efforts to help people affected by the floods."

These new housing arrangements will look different for each individual and family. Some people may choose to live with friends or family while they rebuild. Others will move into new apartments. Some people will be helped through transitional sheltering or other housing programs offered by government agencies or community organizations.

Red Cross case workers also continue to meet one-on-one with people on matters such as emergency needs for prescription and durable medical equipment replacements, document replacement and additional recovery planning. Thus far, more than 1,149 cases have been opened to provide individualized recovery support.

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The many varied and complex issues involved in recovery from the floods makes this a challenging and emotionally draining time for everyone involved. Red Cross Mental Health and Health professionals, as well Spiritual Care teams have provided more than 6,327 basic health, mental health and spiritual care contacts.

Disasters won't stop during the coronavirus outbreak—our goal remains to provide anyone in need after a disaster with comfort and support. We've created new protocols to help keep everyone safe in this environment. During this era of COVID-19, the Red Cross works with public health officials to ensure the safety of our disaster clients and our workforce, while still providing help and hope. All Red Cross services, including financial assistance and temporary emergency lodging, are free and available to eligible households, regardless of citizenship or residency status, nationality, race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, visit: [redcross.org/Michigan](https://www.redcross.org/Michigan).

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