



DISASTER RELIEF IN FLORIDA

HOW CAN NURSING STUDENTS GET INVOLVED?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Although nursing students can be limited when trying to volunteer during disaster situations due to lacking the necessary licensure, there are several opportunities for students to volunteer either under the supervision of an RN or independently. These opportunities can span across any types of disaster, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, or fires. The most important step to getting involved is to be prepared and trained **BEFORE** disaster strikes!

RESOURCES IN FLORIDA:

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** - national relief program that connects you to a local volunteer network to become trained and involved in various disaster situations
https://community.fema.gov/Register/Register_Search_Programs
- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** - certification course that trains on preparedness, communication, and resource and information management
<https://training.fema.gov/nims/>
- **American Red Cross** - the Red Cross offers nursing students the ability to serve as Disaster Health Service volunteers under the supervision of an RN in a local shelter setting.
<https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/volunteer/pdfs/Eligibility-Criteria-for-Disaster-Health-Services-Volunteers.pdf>
- **Florida Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (FL VOAD)** - coalition of non-profit organizations that respond to disasters throughout Florida where students are welcome to attend meetings to learn more about the resources in the state.
<https://flvoad.communityos.org/cms/home>

