

MARCH 2021 HOUSTON AREA UPDATE

## 2021 SNO-VID AID INFO

TEXAS DEEP FREEZE • FEBRUARY 14 – 20, 2021

Winter Storm Uri's record-low temperatures in Texas resulted in extended power outages for 4.4 million people and wreaked havoc on an unprepared Texas in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



## ABOUT AGIP

Another Gulf is Possible was formed by a group of friends across the Gulf South - Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.



We've worked together to provide rapid response aid & resources across the Gulf South after natural disasters - some of us before Hurricane Katrina.

We've built a strong & rooted ecosystem of relationships between individuals who call the US Gulf South and the Global South home.

Our collaborative centers cultural organizing, arts-based healing, direct action, advocacy, transformative justice, education, and locally-led capacity-building training as our core areas of work.

We see our lived experience within this context as a strength and strive to honestly and authentically put into practice the principles we hold around sustainability, equity and justice.

**We are committed to building up the skills, abilities and talents of ourselves and our communities across the Gulf South to the Global South.**



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LANDLORDS & RENTERS

Are you or  
your tenants  
behind on rent?

Apply for help starting Feb 15th.



**833-9TX-RENT**  
Toll Free 833-989-7368

TexasRentRelief.com

**We Got We**

**AnotherGulf.com**

**#WEgotWe**





## FEDERAL AID WINTER STORM SURVIVORS

Apply at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov)

or

CALL 1-800-621-3362 (1-800-462-7585 TTY)

- At least 1 household member must be a US Citizen.
- If you're insured, file claims with your insurance, too.
- Other resources at [readyharris.org](https://readyharris.org)

Having trouble coping after a disaster?

Talk with us.

## Disaster Distress Helpline

CALL: 1-800-985-5990

TEXT: "TalkWithUs" to 66746

<http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov>



SBP is conducting FREE webinars to help winter storm survivors navigate the FEMA assistance process.

USE OUR FREE GUIDES, VIDEOS AND RESOURCES

<https://SBPprotects.org>

POST-FREEZE CLEAN UP AND PLUMBING GUIDE  
GUÍA DE PLOMERÍA Y LIMPIEZA POST-CONGELACIÓN

MUCK AND GUT GUIDE  
GUÍA DE LIMPIEZA PROFUNDA REMOCIÓN  
DE ESCOMBROS

MOLD REMEDIATION GUIDE  
GUÍA DE REMEDIACIÓN DE MOHO

MOLD REMEDIATION SUPPLIES  
SUMINISTROS DE ELIMINACIÓN DE MOHO

NAVIGATING FEMA AND THE SBA PROCESS  
INFORMACIÓN GENERAL DEL PROCESO DE  
ASISTENCIA POR DESASTRES

PROTECT AGAINST CONTRACTOR FRAUD  
CÓMO EVITAR LOS FRAUDES DE CONTRATISTAS

HOME DAMAGE, ELEVATION AND CODE COMPLIANCE  
DAÑO EN EL HOGAR Y CUMPLIMIENTO DE  
ELEVACIÓN Y CÓDIGO

POST-DISASTER INSURANCE GUIDE  
GUÍA DE SEGURO POSTERIOR A UN DESASTRE



## CRISIS CLEANUP

Volunteers available to help complete minor repairs for homes damaged in the 2021 Texas Freeze.

Register at

844-965-1386

or

[www.CrisisCleanup.org](http://www.CrisisCleanup.org)

En estos tiempos inciertos,  
no está solo.  
Estamos aquí para escucharlo.

## Línea de Ayuda

Para Los Afectados Por Catástrofes

1-800-985-5990

MENSALE SMS:

"Hablanos" to 66746

<http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov>

## Houston Mutual Aid Groups

Mutual Aid Houston	Houston, TX	@mutualaidhou	<a href="https://linktr.ee/mutualaidhou">linktr.ee/mutualaidhou</a>
Housless Organizing Coalition	Houston, TX	@hoc.hx	<a href="https://linktr.ee/hoc.hx">linktr.ee/hoc.hx</a>
Houston Community Fridges	Houston, TX	@htxcommunityfridges	<a href="https://linktr.ee/htxcommunityfridges">linktr.ee/htxcommunityfridges</a>
West Street Recovery	Houston, TX	@weststreetrecovery	<a href="https://linktr.ee/WestStreet">linktr.ee/WestStreet</a>
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Service	Houston, TX	@tejasbarrios	
Texas Housers	Houston, TX	@texashousers	<a href="https://linktr.ee/texashousers">linktr.ee/texashousers</a>
Say Her Name Texas	Houston, TX	@sayhernamehx	<a href="https://sayhernamehx.org">sayhernamehx.org</a>
Another Gulf is Possible	Houston, TX	@anothergulf.ispossible	<a href="https://www.anothergulf.com">www.anothergulf.com</a>
CrowdSource Rescue	Houston, TX	@crowdsourcerescue	<a href="https://crowdsourcerescue.com/campaigns/home/223?scope_campaigns=223">https://crowdsourcerescue.com/campaigns/home/223?scope_campaigns=223</a>
Living Hope Wheelchair Association	Houston, TX		<a href="http://lhwassociation.org/">http://lhwassociation.org/</a>
Houston Food Not Bombs	Houston, TX	<a href="https://facebook.com/houstonfoodnotbombs">facebook.com/houstonfoodnotbombs</a>	
Pocket Change Pools	Throughout Texas	@pocketchange pools	<a href="https://linktr.ee/pecpools">linktr.ee/pecpools</a>
Lilith Fund	Throughout Texas	@lilithfund	<a href="https://www.lilithfund.org/">https://www.lilithfund.org/</a>
Freefrom	National	@freefromdotorg	<a href="https://linktr.ee/freefromdotorg">linktr.ee/freefromdotorg</a>

# ATTENTION SNAP RECIPIENTS:

SNAP recipients in any of the 66 counties that have received federal disaster declaration for Winter Storm Uri **do not need to call 211** for food replacement benefits.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

## SNAP Replacement Benefits

SNAP recipients in the 66 counties that have received approval for automatic replacement benefits for Winter Storm Uri should have automatically been placed on EBT cards by March 4.

Counties: Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Blanco, Borden, Brazoria, Brewster, Burnet, Calhoun, Chambers, Coke, Colorado, Comanche, Cooke, Delta, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, Falls, Frio, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Haskell, Irion, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kerr, Kinney, Knox, La Salle, Leon, Liberty, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Lynn, Martin, Matagorda, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Mitchell, Montgomery, Oldham, Parker, Reagan, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Throckmorton, Trinity, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Waller, Williamson, Young, Zapata and Zavala.

SNAP recipients not in one of the 66 counties listed above, can request a benefit replacement for food lost or destroyed due to February 2021 winter storm have until March 31 to request a benefit replacement. Funds should be placed on Lone Star Cards within two business days of receiving the request.

To request a benefit replacement:

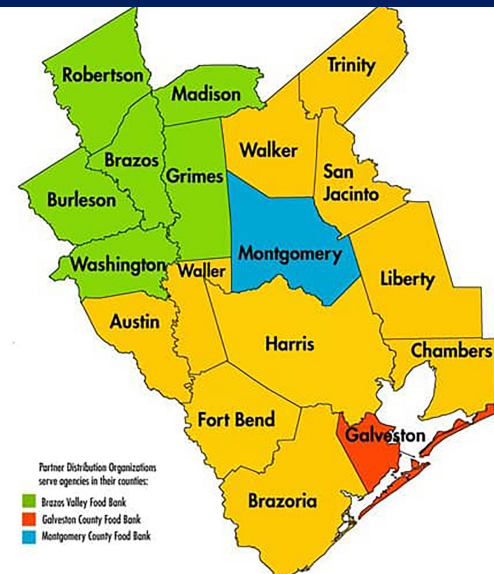
- Call 2-1-1, select language, then choose Option 5.
- Submit form H1855 to request a benefit replacement by mail or fax.

Texas Health & Human Services, P.O. Box 149027,  
Austin, TX 78714-9027

Fax: 877-447-2839

## Hot Foods with SNAP until 3/31:

**Texans who get SNAP food benefits can buy hot food such as rotisserie chicken and prepared foods from a store's deli at retailers who accept SNAP through March 31.**



**There is a Presidential disaster declaration for TX been which only covers "Emergency Protective Measures" like emergency sheltering & food/water distribution. TX has asked for money for home repair and alternative housing and President Biden has said he'll approve the declaration as soon as it crosses his desk. More updates to come...**





This may not be a priority for folks who are just trying to survive right now, however, if you can take pictures and/or video of damage and keep receipts for anything bought to deal with the storm (especially home repair related supplies) it will help deal with FEMA and insurance companies down the road.

## Report Damage for Texas Funding Help

Impacted Houstonians can complete this survey to help capture the disaster recovery need in our community so that we can advocate for the right programs to get funding and demonstrate need for ongoing fundraising efforts.

Complete the Self Reporting Damage Survey to report damage to the Texas Division of Emergency Management. This is a voluntary activity, is not a substitute for reporting damage to an insurance agency, and does not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

Reporting damage to the Texas Division of Emergency Management is a voluntary activity, is not a substitute for reporting damage to an insurance agency, and does not guarantee disaster relief assistance.

Scan the QR code OR visit [tdem.texas.gov/warm](https://tdem.texas.gov/warm) to report your damages!



### Are you worried that your landlord will evict you because you are behind on rent?

You are not alone. Millions of people across Texas are threatened with eviction because they can't afford to pay the rent.

**Eviction is not a criminal matter.** If your landlord tries to evict you by filing a lawsuit in court, it does not mean that you have committed a crime. Being unable to pay your rent is not a crime. It's an unavoidable reality for people worldwide.

However, an eviction is a serious matter because it means you could lose your home. You should never be afraid to ask for help if you are concerned that your landlord might evict you.

## Photos of Damage

Photos let agencies and organizations know where and how to send assistance. While not all photos are required, the more you are able to provide, the better understanding you will give of your area's impacts. Only return to the property to take photos if it is safe and legal to do so.

## Interior Photos

In the case of flooding, interior photos are helpful to indicate water depth inside the home. Please stand a few feet away from the interior walls while taking pictures of water line marks so emergency managers can gain a sense of the water depth from its surroundings.

## Exterior Photos

In the case of flooding, exterior photos are helpful to indicate water depth outside the home. Please stand a few feet away from the exterior walls while taking pictures of water line marks so emergency managers can gain a sense of the water depth from its surroundings.

### Still without running water or electricity from the Winter Storm?


Homeowners can apply for repair assistance from nonprofits at [ConnectiveHomeRepair.org](https://ConnectiveHomeRepair.org)



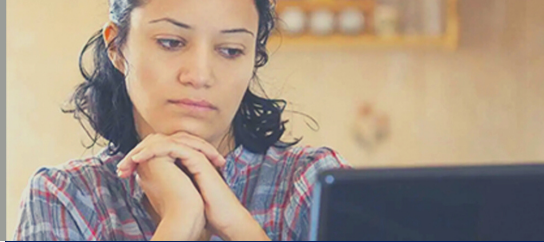
2021 Winter Storm Home Repair







## Internal Revenue Service Extends Tax Filing Deadline to June 15, 2021



## Internal Revenue Service Extends Tax Filing Deadline

The Internal Revenue Service has extended the tax filing season for Texas residents after winter storms wreaked havoc on the state. Instead of April 15, the tax deadline for individuals and businesses in Texas is June 15.

Taxpayers in other states affected by the winter storms that had disaster declarations issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will automatically receive the same filing and payment relief, according to the IRS.

If you require tax filing assistance, you can contact a VITA site. The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals.

The VITA program has operated for over 50 years, offering free tax help to:

- People who generally earn \$57,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and
- Limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site near you, use the VITA Locator Tool or call 800-906-9887.

## COVID TSU TESTING INFO

### St. Luke's

Here is the registration link  
and they do take walk-ups:

<https://www.stlukeshealth.org/covidvaccine>

You need to have a valid U.S.  
issued ID.  
They will not take passports.

### Houston Methodist

Houston Methodist vaccine is  
currently available only for  
those in Phase 1A and Phase 1B,  
as well as school and child care  
personnel,

Patients 65 and older.  
Patients 45 to 64 who have at  
least one Class 1\* comorbid  
condition, or at least two Class  
2\* comorbid conditions

Houston Methodist is currently  
notifying eligible patients via  
automated phone call, text  
message, email or regular mail  
to schedule their vaccine:

<https://www.houstonmethodist.org/coronavirus/vaccine-updates>

## Behind on rent or utility bills?

**The Texas Rent Relief Program is here to help.**

COVID-19 has affected Texans across the state. We have emergency funds available to help Texas renters pay rent and utility bills (including past due rent and utilities).

For Information, Call Toll-Free or Email:

1-833-9TX-RENT • 1-833-989-7368 • [info@texasrentrelief.com](mailto:info@texasrentrelief.com)  
Monday-Saturday • 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST • Help is available in multiple languages.

**FREE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES**  
for Low Income Texans

**SERVICIOS LEGALES CIVILES GRATUITOS**  
para Tejanos de bajos ingresos

**DỊCH VỤ PHÁP LÝ DÂN SỰ MIỄN PHÍ**  
cho người Texas có thu nhập thấp



**LONE STAR  
LEGAL AID**

# Here's how Stop TX Eviction can help you

- ✓ Get legal information about the eviction process and your rights.
- ✓ Get access to important documents you can give to your landlord or the court.

- ✓ Apply for legal assistance from organizations in your area that provide free legal services to qualifying tenants.
- ✓ Find out about rental assistance like the [Texas Rent Relief Program](#) and other local resources in your area.

## The Texas Rent Relief Program can help renters with the following costs starting as far back as March 13, 2020.

(this means you could potentially request assistance for up to 11 months of past due bills):

- ✓ **Past due, current and up to 3 months of expected rent costs**
- ✓ **Past due, current and up to 3 months of expected utility and home energy expenses**
- ✓ **After the initial 3 months of forward assistance, you can apply for 3 additional months of assistance if funds are still available**

**If your landlord does not want to participate, you can still apply.**

### Texas Rent Relief Program

now accepting applications

Go to [texasrentrelief.com](https://texasrentrelief.com) or call 833-989-7368

### Texas Rent Relief Program

Aceptando aplicaciones. Ahora!

Dirigete a [texasrentrelief.com](https://texasrentrelief.com) o llama al 833-989-7368

### Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

accepting applications starting February 25

Go to [houstonharrishelp.org](https://houstonharrishelp.org) or call 211

### Houston-Harris County Programa de Emergencia para Asistencia de Renta

Aceptando aplicaciones comenzando February 25

Dirigete a [houstonharrishelp.org](https://houstonharrishelp.org) o llama al 211

#### HOUSTON-HARRIS RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

##### WHO CAN APPLY?

RENTERS IN HARRIS COUNTY OR THE CITY OF HOUSTON

##### HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- INCOME BELOW \$50,450 FOR A FAMILY OF 2 OR \$63,050 FOR A FAMILY OF 4
- EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSTABILITY OR HOMELESSNESS
- EXPERIENCED FINANCIAL HARDSHIP DUE TO COVID

## Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The City of Houston and Harris County are working together to provide \$159 million in rent and utilities assistance to families who are struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be distributed by two agencies with established experience in helping people in need: BakerRipley and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Sign up today at <https://houstonharrishelp.org> or call 832-402-7568 for additional information!

## Texas Eviction Diversion Program (TEDP)

Available Statewide Starting 2/12/21

If the rent is below the Texas Rent Relief Program limit, assistance can be used to pay the contracted rent for all past due rent as far back as March 13, 2020 (up to 12 months), plus up to an additional 3 months upon re-application if necessary to ensure housing stability and if funds are available.

The TEDP uses a special court process that allows courts to put eviction lawsuits on hold and divert them to the TEDP. Under the TEDP, lump sum payments are provided to landlords for rent back payments in exchange for allowing tenants to remain in their homes and forgiving late fees. Diverted cases will be dismissed and made confidential from public disclosure.

TX Dept of Housing:

<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/TEDP.htm>



### LSLA CARES Tool

Lone Star Legal Aid has created a new tool, LSLA CARES, to help you search the many public databases available to find out if your property is subject to the CARES Act. See if your property is covered below.

### Texas Winter Storm 2021 Resources



You have reached Lone Star Legal Aid's resources for Texas individuals and families impacted by Severe Winter Storm (DR-4586-TX). It contains information from us as well as links to resources from trusted organizations.

If you need immediate legal assistance, you can reach us to apply for our services over the telephone at 1-800-733-8394. You can also apply for our services online [here](#).