

PRESS RELEASE



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211 TAMPA BAY CARES PROVIDES LIFE SAVING SUPPORT

Dial 211 if you or someone you know has been impacted by Elsa – We can help!

Clearwater, Florida (July 7, 2021) – 211 Tampa Bay Cares is ready with critical disaster support information to help our friends, family and neighbors who have been impacted by Tropical Storm Elsa. Our 211 Specialists are standing by to provide emotional support as well as vital information regarding federal and state disaster relief and recovery financial assistance programs, emergency food and housing assistance, legal support, prescription assistance, health services, disaster volunteer and financial support opportunities and so much more.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please encourage them to text their zip code to 898211 OR call 211. Our compassionate Specialists are here to help, please note that call wait times may be higher than usual due to increased call volume. Texting your zip code to 898211 may be quicker than calling and allows a 211 Specialist to send necessary information directly to you via text. Answers to commonly asked questions are available on our website at <https://211tampabay.org/> under *Storm Resources*. To search our database on your own, download our free 211 app ‘211 Connects’ available on Apple Store or Google Play.

Our team continues to gather information on new and emerging disaster support services to help connect and direct individuals and families to services that meet their immediate needs. Based on our experience during past storms, we know that many people may need essential disaster support information regarding human services during the immediate and long-term aftermath of a storm.

211 Tampa Bay Cares is available to help anyone in need 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Simply call 211 from any phone or text your zip code to 898211. Services include financial assistance information, transportation information, mental health assistance and a variety of other health and human services information and referral services. Visit our website at <https://211tampabay.org/> for more details or to access our extensive list of services available to

everyone. If you would like to support the mission of 211 to keep hope alive, visit <https://211tampabay.org/how-you-can-help/donate/>

About 211

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in our community such as locating a food pantry, childcare, recreation programs, and volunteer and donation opportunities. 2-1-1 also lists health and nutrition programs, such as community fitness activities, classes on healthy eating, smoking cessation and free health screenings. 2-1-1 is a free confidential phone number available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week in 150 languages. 2-1-1's database contains approximately 3,000 resources with over 7,000 services. 2-1-1 TBC currently serves Pinellas and Hernando counties.

211 Tampa Bay Cares is funded by Pinellas County Government, JWB, United Way Suncoast, United Way Hernando County, Pinellas Community Foundation, City of St. Petersburg, City of Safety Harbor, City of Dunedin, City of Oldsmar, City of Seminole, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, FEMA, Duke Energy, Collins Family Foundation, Vibrant Health - National Suicide Prevention Hotline, State of Florida Office of Early Learning, Children's Forum, Suncoast Center, and St. Vincent De Paul CARES,

If you need help 24 hours a day with referrals or information on local non-profit organizations, please dial 2-1-1 or send e-mail requests to media@211tampabay.org.

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