



# HURRICANE HARVEY

Hurricane Harvey — one of the most devastating hurricanes on record in U.S. history — delivered its worst blows to Houston's Jewish community. Nearly three-quarters of the city's Jewish population live in areas that received extensive flooding, and nearly every Jewish-owned business and institution has felt the impact in some way. For many, this is the third time in as many years that they have had to rebuild after a hurricane.

Jewish Federations immediately set up the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund to help meet urgent needs such as food, medicine, cleaning supplies, and trauma counseling, and to enable rebuilding. Our network of local and international partners means we can respond quickly and effectively to this emergency — but the work is not done. Experts say that full recovery could take many years.

## FACTS

*(based on early estimates  
and expected to jump)*

➡ Of the 51,000 Jews who live in Houston, **71% live in areas affected by flooding**

➡ **1,000 people** have been displaced from their homes

➡ 14% of **Jewish day school students** and 20% of day school staff have confirmed flooding

➡ **6 major Houston Jewish institutions** have suffered catastrophic flood damage, including three of the largest synagogues and a day school

➡ Seven Acres, with one of the **largest Alzheimer's care units in the country**, experienced complete flooding on its first floor. Residents had to be relocated.

Though significant parts of Houston remain underwater and assessment of the unprecedented damage has only just begun, Federations have already raised and allocated millions to help. Here's how:

### **Meet immediate urgent needs**

In the first few days after the hurricane, displaced and affected families urgently needed temporary housing, food, and cleaning supplies.

### **Establish safe places for children**

After flooding and released toxins rendered homes and large parts of the central JCC nearly unusable, distraught families were able to send their children to a day camp so that they could focus on recovery and rebuilding.

### **Help synagogue congregants**

Three synagogues have catastrophic damage, and rabbis are working tirelessly to help congregants in need. Initial grants have been given to rabbis to help congregants rebuild.

### **Provide loans to rebuild**

To help Houstonians, the Hebrew Free Loan Association will match resources from four cities to create a new Hurricane Harvey loan pool.

### **Offer trauma support**

Families who have been flooded out of their homes two or three times in less than three years are able to receive telephone-based counseling sessions and schedule in-person appointments with trauma and family-resilience specialists.

### **Connect to JFS**

Those who have been displaced and require temporary housing, transportation, and legal services can now have those needs met by Jewish Family Service.



**WE ARE  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE.**



**Jewish Federation**  
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY