



Media Contact:
Rick Brown, Communications Manager
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
(615) 226-2292 | rbrown@nhchc.org

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Statement from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council on Hurricane Harvey

The [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#) grieves for and is concerned about our neighbors that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. We are sorrowful for those who have been displaced from their homes and families. We hope that most of the displacements and losses are temporary, but we also know that dozens have perished and an untold number have had their homes permanently destroyed. We understand that many of the tens of thousands of people who are newly homeless are experiencing trauma and pain, and are also aware that the effects of the trauma for some can last long after the storm. We also have a special awareness that those who were experiencing homelessness before Hurricane Harvey were the most vulnerable and may have suffered greatly.

In addition to monitoring and praying, we want to stand in meaningful ways with those in need. At a time in which the services of Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) programs are needed more than ever, their staffs and facilities may also be distressed. The National HCH Council is attempting to discern the needs of HCH programs to determine how we can support them in their efforts to address the mammoth needs of their communities. Please watch for more information from the Council.

In addition to helping those in need now, we want to help everyone who serves people experiencing homelessness prepare for future emergencies and disasters **before** they occur. The Council has developed [extremely valuable resources](#) on disaster planning for people experiencing homelessness, health care delivery during a disaster, building collaborations, and other topics. Please use these resources.

If you have any suggestions for ways that the Council can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#). A [list of ways](#) in which you can assist organizations aiding those affected by Harvey is also available at NPR.

About the National Health Care for the Homeless Council

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is a network of doctors, nurses, social workers, patients, and advocates who share the mission to eliminate homelessness. Since 1986 we have been the leading organization to call for comprehensive health care and secure housing for all. We produce leading research in the field and provide the highest level of training and resources related to care for persons experiencing homelessness. We collaborate with government agencies and private institutions in order to solve complex problems associated with homelessness. Additionally, we provide support to more than 200 public health centers and Health Care for the Homeless programs in all 50 states. Learn more at www.nhchc.org.