

# NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AFTER HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

Updated October 3, 2005

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have left hundreds of thousands of Americans homeless along the Gulf Coast region - adding to the estimated 3.5 million men, women, and children already homeless across the country. NLCHP is responding to the immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs of people affected by these disasters.

We want to hear from you - tell us your story. Are you having problems receiving assistance? **Call us at (202) 638-2535 or email to [katrina@nlchp.org](mailto:katrina@nlchp.org)!**

### Children and Education

- If you are preparing to educate students who lost housing due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, read [informative memorandum for states and districts](#) created by NLCHP and others.
- If you are seeking school enrollment for an evacuee child, call the local school district and ask to speak with the local homeless liaison. You may also contact your state coordinator for homeless education. A listing of coordinators is available on NLCHP's website: <http://www.nlchp.org/FA%5FEducation/stateCoordinators.cfm>
- Young people do have federal legal rights to help tear down barriers. View a [PowerPoint presentation](#) from NLCHP and others outlining the McKinney-Vento Act.

Visit [www.nlchp.org/Katrina/Education.cfm](http://www.nlchp.org/Katrina/Education.cfm) more information.

### Disability Benefits

- If you or your clients are disabled and receiving SSI benefits, or are disabled and need to apply for SSI benefits, you should be aware of [changes to current SSA procedures](#) as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
- To find the location of the nearest SSA office or FEMA site with an SSA representative, call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Visit <http://www.nlchp.org/Katrina/SSI.cfm> for more information.

### Housing

- If you were homeless or lived in HUD-assisted housing (including having a Section 8 voucher) before the hurricanes and are now displaced, call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY 1-800-462-7585) to register for assistance, or register on line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). You will get an ID number, which you will need to keep in a safe place.

- If you were homeless or lived in HUD-assisted housing before the hurricanes, you probably are eligible for HUD housing disaster assistance -- Katrina Disaster Housing Assistance Program (KDHAP).

Visit <http://www.nlchp.org/Katrina/Housing.cfm> for more information.

### **Identification Issues**

- If you are trying to obtain identification, you should be aware of [special procedures](#) to help people affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Visit <http://www.nlchp.org/Katrina/ID.cfm> for more information.

### **Share your hurricane experience**

NLCHP wants to hear from you - tell us your story. Are you a service provider experiencing new issues as a result of the hurricane? Did your clients relocate? Are you having problems receiving assistance from FEMA or HUD? **Call us at (202) 638-2535 or email to [katrina@nlchp.org](mailto:katrina@nlchp.org)!**