

NASW-NYS Invites Social Workers to Provide a Helping Hand

Through a Number of Opportunities to Provide Disaster Assistance

The National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter (NASW-NYS) is calling on social workers in New York State to aid in disaster relief efforts.

As you are aware, heavy rains associated with Tropical Storms Irene and Lee caused historic flooding. Thousands of New Yorkers have been negatively impacted by the recent disasters; many of whom lost their homes, possessions, and places of employment. Social workers are well suited to interpret disaster context, advocate for effective services, and provide leadership in essential collaborations among institutions and organizations, as such, NASW-NYS is collaborating with a number of relief organizations. Your assistance in impacted areas has the potential to help mitigate the effects of Irene and Lee. Please contact coordinating agencies below to offer your services, time and the expertise inherent to social work.

Volunteer Opportunities:

➤ **Broome County**

- Diane Olmstead, Mental Health Response Coordinator is accepting social work volunteers to provide disaster mental health relief and related services. She can be reached at (607) 759-0467 or diane@cvac.us
- Volunteers are needed to assist those affected by flooding in the Southern Tier of New York from Tropical Storm Lee. United Way of Broome County, in partnership with the Institute for Human Services, has made an online portal available to provide individuals interested in volunteering with a way to connect with relief and recovery projects in the region. If you are interested in volunteering please visit <http://volunteer.truist.com/211helpline/volunteer/> Once registered, United Way will be able to keep you informed of current recovery projects in the community. If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact United Way's 211/First Call for Help at 1-800-901-2180 to find out about how to volunteer.
- The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier is offering a series of orientation and training regarding the anticipated disaster relief needs in Broome County. For more information and to register, please contact Diane Olmstead (see above) or Keith Leahey, MHA Director at (607) 771-8888.

- **Schenectady County** Social work volunteers are needed to conduct door to door assessments in the Rotterdam Junction area, identify families in need and potentially provide follow up case management. Grace Salerno at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady is accepting social work volunteers. To learn how you can assist contact Grace at ges17@cornell.edu or (518) 372-1722.
- **Tioga County** Lori Monk, Clinical Program Director of Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene is accepting social work volunteers to provide disaster mental health and related services. She can be reached at (607) 689-8139 or monkl@co.tioga.ny.us

For additional information on volunteer opportunities in other regions of state affected by the recent tropical storms please contact NASW-NYS Policy Research Associate Brian Belz at (518) 463-4741 Ext. 24 or brian_belz@naswnys.org or visit the Chapter's website at www.naswnys.org

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