



24-HOUR

Louisiana Spirit Talkline:

(866) 310-7977



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MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of Louisiana Spirit Crisis Counseling Program is to offer crisis counseling that empowers Louisiana disaster survivors to build resilience, recover and move towards self-sufficiency.”

Louisiana Spirit

Crisis Counseling Program is funded through a grant from FEMA and SAMHSA



FEMA



LOUISIANA Spirit

Services are available locally through

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority

(St. Helena, Livingston, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany and Washington Parishes)

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority

(Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Union and West Carroll Parishes)

Northwest Louisiana Human Services District

(Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Sabine, Red River and Webster Parishes)

HOPE

is the enemy of

DESPAIR



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LOUISIANA Spirit



Who We Are

The Louisiana Spirit Program is a federally funded Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) for individuals, families and groups affected by disasters. Louisiana Spirit provides emotional support, counseling, information and referrals for survivors impacted by the recent disasters.

Funding

The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 authorize the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** to fund behavioral health assistance and training activities in areas which have been declared a disaster by the President.

Immediately following the presidential declaration the **Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health** (*in collaboration with local governing entities, which are responsible for behavioral healthcare and developmental disability services*) applied for a crisis counseling grant in response to the disaster declared areas. As a result, Louisiana Spirit was reactivated with funding through **FEMA** and is administered through the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)**.

Why is Louisiana Spirit Needed?

The impact and magnitude of disasters in Louisiana has resulted in catastrophic damage and has affected the well-being of its communities statewide. The hurricanes, oil spills, flooding and tornadoes that have occurred have had an impact on the emotional, physical and mental health of our citizens. The program is designed to provide short-term face-to-face support to help survivors and communities return to pre-disaster levels of mental well-being.



Multiple disasters over the years have taken a toll on those who were impacted. Many survivors have experienced powerful reactions related to human recovery from trauma. Some who were previously impacted heavily

have been re-traumatized by the most recent disaster. Common disaster reactions include:

- Sleeping problems (too little or too much)
- Eating problems (too little or too much)
- Drinking too much
- Avoiding people
- Feeling moody
- Feeling angry a lot
- Being short with others
- Trouble concentrating
- Trouble at work
- Feeling sad or depressed
- Feeling anxious



Services

Under the direction of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals' Office of Behavioral Health, Louisiana Spirit provides outreach crisis counseling and education to disaster survivors, their families, staff of local governments, rescuers, disaster service workers, business owners, religious communities and other special populations. Louisiana Spirit helps connect with formal mental health services such as diagnostic services, therapy, psychiatric treatment, substance abuse treatment, medications or case management.

Outreach

The Louisiana Spirit Crisis Counseling employs outreach and specialty counselor working in the impacted areas. Adverse workforce that reflects the local community ensures knowledge and understanding of the rich cultures and diversity that is Louisiana.

