



Hurricane Recovery Program
ACCESS TO CARE

PROGRAM GOAL

Access to Care is an initiative of the American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program designed to help those directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, to obtain mental health and substance abuse services regardless of where the individuals now live.

The program:

- can be the primary payment source for those who have no insurance or other resources
- covers related out-of-pocket expenses for those who have existing mental health insurance
- allows individuals to choose their own licensed provider
- is retroactive to August 30, 2005
- is administered by Link2Health, a private non-profit subsidiary of The Mental Health Association of NYC.

HOW TO ENROLL:

Anyone interested must call or enroll on-line before October 1, 2007. Enrollment can be initiated by case managers, agencies, or by individuals.

1. Call 1-866-794-HOPE (this hotline is available 24/7 in multiple languages), OR
2. Visit: www.a2care.org

A benefit coordinator will contact Program participants to walk them through the enrollment and program benefits, and, if necessary find local resources,

Because the program is funded by charitable donations, it is possible that the available funds will be exhausted before the anticipated enrollment end date. In that event, individuals currently enrolled in the program will continue to have full use of their benefit coverage until stated deadlines.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

People who were directly affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma are eligible, including:

- Those who lost an immediate family member (defined as grandparent, grandchild, spouse, partner, parent, child, sibling, step-parent, step-sibling, step-child or financially dependent extended family member) because of one of the hurricanes
- Anyone who resided in a pre-disaster ZIP code prior to landfall in one of the counties designated by FEMA for individual assistance following Katrina, Rita or Wilma and suffered significant impacts, such as:
 - Displaced from home or school
 - Participated in the rescue and recovery effort
 - Sustained severe damage or destruction of home
 - Lost employment
 - Sustained, and obtained medical treatment for, a physical injury caused by one of the hurricanes.
 - Other significant impact-a direct result of the hurricane and/or continued challenges as a result of the hurricanes.

In many cases, clients who have received services from other agencies (such as those in the Katrina Aid Today consortium) *will NOT need to provide additional verification of eligibility if we can verify their pre-disaster residence in CAN (Coordinated Assistance Network) or CAS (Client Assistance System)*. In all cases, our benefits staff will work with the client or case manager to obtain necessary documentation and make this process as easy as possible.

WHAT'S COVERED:

The program will provide assistance for mental health or substance abuse care with a licensed provider or facility, regardless of where services are received. Providers and facilities must be licensed in the state where services are received. Some options include:

- Outpatient counseling, individual, family or group
- Psychological testing and evaluation for children under age 21
- Mental health or psychotropic medications
- Auricular (ear) acupuncture
- Outpatient substance abuse services

A list of billable CPT codes and fee schedules can be found on our website: www.a2care.org. Services are covered through April 1, 2008.

WHO CAN PROVIDE TREATMENT?

Professionals who are licensed for independent clinical practice in the state in which they provide services, or employees of licensed mental health or substance abuse programs. Eligible professionals include:

- Physicians
- Psychologists
- Social workers
- Marriage and family counselors
- Professional counselors
- Nurse practitioners
- Certified alcoholism and substance abuse counselors
- Board certified art therapists
- Licensed acupuncturists

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Eligibility is determined by a benefit coordinator who works with the client to confirm benefits and gather necessary information to process claims.
- People with insurance follow the guidelines of their policies to select a licensed practitioner.

SUMMARY

- The American Red Cross Hurricane Recovery Program is funding this program to help remove financial barriers to mental health or substance abuse treatment for people who were affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.
- Eligibility and benefits are confirmed by Link2Health Solutions, a private non-profit subsidiary of the Mental Health Association of NYC.
- Only licensed professionals may provide treatment.
- Clients must use existing resources first, such as private insurance if available.
- If a client is uninsured, the Program can be the primary payer.

Note: The terms are subject to modification as the sponsoring organizations evaluate both the success of the program and the extent of remaining resources. For more information about this program, visit: www.a2care.org