



Illinois
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

COVID-19 Response Coordination Call

*Purpose: To provide the opportunity to communicate needs and coordinate relief efforts with fellow Illinois VOAD members. Organizational needs and resources are **highlighted**.*

March 20, 2020

Team Rubicon

- Two operations starting in Cook County to assist with food distribution: one with Food Depository and one with Catholic Charities.
- Plan is still developing around helping to provide meals, stock warehouses, or assemble and distribute meals.

Rotary International

- Not activated at this time but could assist with drop-and-knock operation south of U.S 50 (48 clubs with 1,500 members)

Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church

- Working on response to tornado in Southern Illinois currently
- Could provide kits for those in shelters
- Service area is I-80 south to Metropolis in a drop-and-knock format (added 3/21)
- Looking to use younger volunteers who have more time available due but need to address needs for PPE

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

- Have a 30,000 SF warehouse facility outside Springfield (2 loading docks and 2 forklifts) and vehicles for storage and transportation
- Will to help store and distribute items as needed

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

- Could assist with gift cards for those who have needs
- Planning to provide meals for those in homeless shelters—focusing on PADS in Lake County

Buddhist Tzu Foundation

- Can provide blankets and vegetarian meals to those in need in Chicagoland counties
- Would drop off where needed to minimize exposure
- May be able to provide gift cards or debit cards in the future

FEMA Region V

- Regional Response Coordination Center is at a Level 2 activation at this time. Most are teleworking or supporting operations remotely.
- All state emergency operations centers in the region are activated
- Any resource needs should be shared with FEMA State VALs or Mass Care Coordinator in the SEOC as only the state can make a formal request of FEMA
- **Member needs should be communicated to the VOAD for coordination and a determination of any requests to be made of IEMA**
- No IA declarations currently
- Observing a growing concern about the availability of volunteers, especially since those with the most time availability tend to be those over 60 years old
- Continued support of recovery efforts from 2019 flooding

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

- SEOC fully activated now with multiple working groups
- Most active working group is focused on “wrap-around services” (getting services to those most in need who are isolated or quarantined)
- Desire to empower local community responses via VOAD and COADs to respond by providing methods to identify needs, providing services, and coordination of volunteers
- Preference is to support what is already going on locally
- Working to gather volunteer opportunities and to encourage continued volunteerism as long as appropriate precautions are being taken
- <http://serve.illinois.gov> updated with capabilities to capture volunteer needs and volunteer activities for purposes of making connections and pushing those willing to volunteer to the agencies with needs
- Still working through the details around the ability to collect and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- No requests for help making homemade PPE

United Way of Greater St. Louis

- <https://stlvolunteer.org> includes opportunities for volunteerism, including those that can be done from home

Illinois Baptist State Association

- Making plans to support drop and knock capabilities from I-80 south
- Planning for volunteers over 65 to work in behind-the-scenes jobs and using younger volunteers for more front-line jobs

Zakat Foundation of America

- Prepared 1,000 food packages in boxes and are available for pickup (Bridgeview, IL) or can be dropped off for distribution
- Have volunteers willing to serve and looking for places to help
- **Request to connect with American Red Cross and Northeast Illinois COAD**

Lutheran Disaster Response (and Northeast Illinois COAD)

- Lake County has setup a Signup Genus for volunteer needs at their 24x7 PADS shelter in Waukegan (<https://bit.ly/3a9Xm3B>)
 - Request for organizations to sign up to provide a meal (purchased or prepared and then dropped off) for the entire facility (approximately 40 meals)
- Working with homeless shelters in other counties in Chicagoland area to identify needs
 - McHenry County is working on a temporary facility but needs to solve some logistics
 - Cook County is looking into using former hotels to providing housing with feeding help from food banks and faith-based organizations

The Salvation Army

- Alternate housing workgroup formed at SEOC to help address needs as raised by county health and emergency response leadership

American Red Cross

- **If anyone in the northern Illinois area have comfort kits, please reach out.**

Information Technology Disaster Resource Center

- Activated national team of volunteers and providing resources and technical assistance for response operations
- Providing computers, tablets, internet, and WiFi to response locations
- Demand for student internet connectivity in areas where options are insufficient
 - Working with tech partners to bridge connectivity gap
- Needs survey published to help gather requests for assistance

Illinois VOAD

- Each organization needs to make their own determinations around how to safely screen volunteers and protect them while serving

We will commence a regular coordination call twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM CDT starting Monday, March 23. Call-in details will be shared with members and partners via e-mail.