

[National Consumer Law Center Resources to Help Communities Cope with Financial Devastation after a Natural Disaster Strikes](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

National Consumer Law Center Contact: Jan Kruse (jkruise@nclc.org); (617) 542-8010

Washington, D.C. - Hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters can upend families and communities, but long after TV crews have departed the long road to rebuilding begins. To help households, especially the most vulnerable, recover from financial devastation after a disaster strikes, the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) has created a free Disaster Relief toolkit.

The online toolkit includes resources for families, advocates, and policymakers on:

- [Obtaining mortgage relief](#);
- Getting [short-term](#) and [longer-term](#) federal student loan debt relief (English and [Spanish](#));
- [Avoiding home repair fraud](#) (based on lessons learned after Hurricane Katrina);
- [Identifying debt settlement scams](#) (English and [Spanish](#));
- Keeping households connected with utilities, including [model utility consumer protections that states can adopt](#), an issue brief on helping low-income households with assistance in [paying bills for heating and cooling](#), and an [issue brief](#) and [fact sheet](#) explaining how low-income households can remain connected with voice and broadband internet service; and
- [Helping older consumers after a natural disaster](#) (including tips on insurance benefits and obtaining assistance from FEMA).

NCLC will continue to add new resources, including how to avoid used cars that were in a flood. To access the full list of resources, please visit NCLC's Disaster Relief & Consumer Protection Project at: <https://www.nclc.org/issues/disaster-relief-consumer-protections.html>.

###