



# National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

July 21, 2018

To: State and Local Officials and Emergency Managers  
From: National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)  
Subject: National VOAD Disaster Donation Policy

Any community can be struck by a disaster such as a fire, flood, hurricane, tornado or earthquake where lives, homes, businesses, and communities may be damaged or destroyed. This creates substantial needs for immediate, short-term, and long-term assistance. Federal, State, tribal and local governments provide critical support utilizing limited resources. The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) facilitates the engagement of thousands of national, state and local organizations that agree to cooperate, communicate, coordinate and collaborate throughout all phases of disasters to more efficiently and effectively provide much needed money, volunteers, material necessities, and subject matter expertise across the entire United States.

Voluntary organizations operate on budgets based on public and private donations. State, local and tribal governments are urged to join National VOAD in promoting the message that the best donation to support disaster response and recovery is a financial donation to a trusted nonprofit organization engaged in disaster operations. Financial gifts to nonprofits are preferred for some of the following reasons:

- Precisely what is needed, when it is needed may be purchased to support operations during response and recovery as well as eliminate problems of outdated and un-needed items.
- Promoting monetary donations helps prevent the second disaster of useless in-kind donations.
- Nonprofit organizations are able to provide tax deductible receipts to donors.
- Handling, storing, documenting, and transporting financial contributions are easier and utilize fewer resources than in-kind donations.
- Purchasing products in a disaster impacted area helps rebuild the local economy.
- Leveraging pre-established relationships and making wholesale/bulk purchases allows voluntary organizations to purchase more for their money.
- Financial contributions allow for equitable disbursement procedures.

National, State, and local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster members engage in ongoing collaboration with all levels of government, the private sector, and the public to develop, train, exercise, and activate donation management plans that incorporate best practices.

Sincerely,

Greg Forrester  
President & CEO

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