



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

**CENTER FOR FAITH-BASED AND
NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**

Dear friends,

Our hearts break for the victims, families and others affected by the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL last week. In the wake of these tragic events, we wanted to share programs and resources from the Federal government that can help your community cope with grief. Resources below can also help you to safeguard houses of worship and community centers. These resources can enable you to be better prepared in a time of need. For questions on these programs, please see below or contact partnerships@fema.dhs.gov or communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov . **In the event of an emergency, call 911.**

Resources for Grieving, Getting Help and Talking to Children:

Important Hotlines

1. **“Getting Help for Incidents of Mass Violence”**: This website from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides resources to help those affected by mass shootings and other incidents of mass violence or terror. You can call the **Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990** or text **TalkWithUs to 66746** for 24/7, year-round counseling and support for emotional distress from disaster or violence.
<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/disaster-types/mass-violence>
1. **National Suicide Prevention Helpline**: For those in crisis, the National Suicide Prevention Helpline provides 24-hour support at 800-273-8255 (TALK), with special focus on veterans by pressing option 2.

Resources on Coping with Grief and Talking to Children

1. **Coping with Grief After a Disaster or Traumatic Event:** This fact sheet provides tips on coping with grief and loss:
<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Survivors-/All-New-Products/SMA17-5035>
1. **Tips for Talking with and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event:** A Guide for Parents, Children and Teachers:
<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Tips-for-Talking-With-and-Helping-Children-and-Youth-Cope-After-a-Disaster-or-Traumatic-Event-A-Guide-for-Parents-Caregivers-and-Teachers/SMA12-4732>

More resources can be found at <https://www.samhsa.gov> or <https://mentalhealth.gov/>.

Protecting Houses of Worship and Community Centers

1. “Resources to Protect Your Houses of Worship”: This [website](#) from our sister Center at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides resources for faith communities seeking to protect their houses of worship, including webinars, information on community outreach services offered by the Department of Homeland Security; emergency-preparedness resources; online training on active shooter incidents from the FBI; making a security plan; and resources to combat trauma, foster resilience and manage stress in the wake of a disaster. You can find this site at <https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources>
1. The Department of Homeland Security also has 119 “Protective Security Advisors” that provide **free** training to communities looking to secure community centers, houses of worship and other public settings. To find the advisor nearest you, email NICCC@HQ.DHS.GOV or call 202-282-9201. You can visit <https://www.dhs.gov/national-infrastructure-coordinating-center> for more information on this program. You can also reach out to local law enforcement for questions on physical security. For more information on connecting with local law enforcement, contact partnerships@fema.dhs.gov.

Active Shooter Training and Awareness: The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI provide information on how to respond to an active-shooter incident. You can find this and other information at <https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness> or <https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources> .

Making a security plan: <http://www.ready.gov> can help you create an emergency plan, and the Red Cross also has information on assisting those with disabilities or other special needs.

If you have questions on these resources, please contact the Department of Homeland Security's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at partnerships@fema.dhs.gov or 202-646-3487, or communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov . You can also contact the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the Department of Health and Human Services at partnerships@hhs.gov .

Thank you for your invaluable service in our communities.

Richard A. Youngblood
Director

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