

Resources available to Massachusetts residents

Do you need help locating family members in Haiti?

The State Department Operations Center has set up the following number for individuals seeking information about family members living in Haiti: 1-888-407-4747. Press zero (0) to speak to a customer service representative.

You can also visit the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Family Links website to accelerate the process of restoring contact between separated family members.

At this stage, the website offers the possibility for persons in Haiti and abroad to publish the names of relatives with whom they are striving to restore contact. It will progressively incorporate information offering responses to those queries.

The website address is: www.icrc.org/familylinks

Are you looking for a way to help?

Call the Mass 2-1-1 office for up to date information about the relief efforts and how you can help. Dial 211 from your phone. This service is available 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. If you are unable to access the 2-1-1 system due to your internal phone system, a toll-free number is available: 1-877-211- MASS (6277).

The immediate need is for money that can be used by an established relief organization to best aid victims of the earthquake. Visit www.interaction.oirg to get a list of credible responding organizations for international emergencies.

Do you need additional information?

Visit the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency website for the latest updates from the federal and international emergency response organizations: www.mass.gov/mema.

You can follow MEMA's updates on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MassEMA> and on Facebook by searching for the "Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency."

The MEMA website, Twitter account and Facebook pages will all provide the latest information available.

If you are a local or state elected official and need more information?

A call center has been set up at the MEMA office to help get you the information you need and there are two designated phone numbers that you may use: 1-508-820-2006, 1-508-820-2075.

Do you need additional assistance?

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, along with local elected officials, SEIU Local 1199, area hospitals and health centers, city department, and community organizations has opened a Referral and Support Center at the SEIU Local 1199 Bayside Office Center located at 150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester (next to the JFK redline station).

The Center is operating 9am until 9pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and will offer phone lines and computer access to help in locating family and friends in Haiti. Translators will be available along with counseling support and assistance linking to needed services.

If you are affiliated with a community organization or faith based organization wishing to connect people with mental health services in the Boston region, please contact the region's Emergency Manager with the Department of Mental Health, Luoise Carcioni, at 617-626-9272. If you are in the Southeast area, please contact Carl Cooperider at 508-977-3160.