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September 17, 2018

Dear USSAAC member (and all former members),  
We are reaching out to you because you live in states currently being impacted by recent/ongoing flooding from Hurricane Florence. We hope you are doing okay. We are thinking about you, your families and especially those people in your area who were impacted and rely on AAC tools and technologies to communicate. We worry especially about those who are currently in shelters or displaced and may have lost access to the AAC tools they depend upon to communicate.

As members of USSAAC's AAC Disaster Relief Committee, our mission is to *support individuals with complex communication needs and their families to:*

- *Be prepared for emergencies and disasters, and*
- *Have communication needs met in the immediate aftermath of a large-scale national disaster and throughout the recovery process.*

We may also focus on training individuals with CCN and their families in personal preparedness, provision of (replacement) AAC devices and services after a large scale national disaster, assistance to first responders, and the provision of training and information to service providers regarding disaster preparedness, response, and recovery for people with CCN.

Here are some resources we ask that you share. Please inform local/state organizations, agencies, groups about USSAAC's efforts and let us know if you have any ideas about how we might help and whether you wish to participate.

1. [www.AACDisasterRelief.recovers.org](http://www.AACDisasterRelief.recovers.org). This portal is designed to help manage USSAAC's response in the aftermath of large-scale national disasters. It enables people to request lost AAC tools and equipment, offer to volunteer, and/or donate items/money to support those impacted. USSAAC monitors this site daily. Please send us any information that might be helpful and spread the word in your communities. Also, check out the DOCUMENTS section (left side/home page). It contains downloadable information. For example, see the Social Narratives for children and adults. These can be used in shelters by teachers and therapists, and by siblings and parents. We used this successfully in Harvey, Irma and Maria last year

2. <http://www.ussaac.org/emergency-preparedness>. Lots of materials and information that relate to preparedness for disasters and emergencies, focuses on people with communication vulnerabilities. See also Webinar AAC 101 for First Responders  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=1wuZGcyt-EY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=1wuZGcyt-EY)

Take care. Be safe. Keep in touch.

All the best,

USSAAC's Board of Directors