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## PDA Services & Resources

### Personnel

#### National Response Team (NRT) and National Volunteer Team (NVT)

The NRT is PDA's primary response unit. NRT members are specially trained volunteers who can be deployed in small teams to cover initial disaster responses, and long-term training and support to mid councils, congregations and communities with recovery efforts. More NRT specifics are covered in the NRT Overview document (in the Initial Response section of the NRT and Mid Council Web Pages). These team members can assist mid councils in:

- Assessment of needs (Mid Council, Congregations, Community)
- Spiritual and pastoral support to mid council leadership, congregations and community faith leaders.
- Connecting the Presbytery to the many resources and services from government, as well as other faith partners and voluntary agencies
- Specialized disaster response in:
  - Emotional and spiritual care
  - Resilience and renewal for responders
  - Hosting volunteer work teams. PDA NRT members can deploy to churches that are interested in hosting volunteer work groups in support of the long-term recovery (Contact Eden Roberts, [PDACallCenter@pcusa.org](mailto:PDACallCenter@pcusa.org); 866/732-6121)
  - Long-term recovery organizing
  - Disaster preparedness (PDA collaborates with Presbyterian Women to lead these trainings)
  - Pastoral trauma, respite care (Contact Jim Kirk, [Jim.Kirk@pcusa.org](mailto:Jim.Kirk@pcusa.org); 502/569-8800)
  - Burned/damaged church leadership support
  - Human-caused disaster support
  - Healing camps for children affected by mass shootings or disasters
  - Refugee issues
  - Other - Recognizing that each disaster and disaster response is different, PDA has the ability to be flexible.

## Equipment

PDA no longer owns any equipment but has connections to national equipment resources such as portable shower buildings and trailers. PDA can also provide consultation about options for showers, tool storage, and bunk bed construction, among other issues.

## Web-based Resources

### PDA Website

The newly revised PDA website contains a vast array of resources to guide Presbyterians in how to respond to disaster. The website includes information about the current national and international responses; how to *Stand in the GAP* – Give, Act, & Pray; and many resource links for individuals and congregations including Stories of Hope and videos. The address is: <http://pda.pcusa.org>

### Mid Council Web Page

PDA has developed a special web page for mid councils and community leaders that contain resources categorized by the major areas of disaster preparedness and response. NRT teams specializing in each topic area created this content. This includes general disaster response and long-term recovery information, as well as sample disaster plans. The address is: <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/midcouncil-epda/>

## Funding

There is a suite of grants for Mid Councils that include:

- Initial Grants to allow broad disaster response support for congregations and communities
- Church Damage Assistance Grant for continuity of ministry
- Special Project Grants to assist with long-term recovery group organization and recovery needs, as well as volunteer host site support
- For information on PDA's grant program, contact Beth Snyder, [beth.snyder@pcusa.org](mailto:beth.snyder@pcusa.org); (502) 569-5806

## Other PDA Resources

Several other miscellaneous resources are available from PDA that include:

- *Light Our Way* – A manual for emotional and spiritual care in times of disaster, <https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/disaster-services/light-our-way-guide-spiritual-care-times-disaster-disaster-response>
- PDA Blue T-shirts for volunteers working in the field
- *Mission Mosaic* magazine
- Interpretive videos about volunteer work team experiences in long-term recovery, visit <https://vimeo.com/pdacares>
- Daily Devotional guide for volunteer work teams
- For resource information, contact PDA staff at [disaster@pcusa.org](mailto:disaster@pcusa.org); (502) 569-5806

## Other Agencies of the Church

### Board of Pensions

Resources include Emergency Shared Grants up to \$1000 for members of the Board of Pensions Plans. This is shared grant between the mid council and the Board of Pensions. Contact the regional Board of Pensions representative for further information.

### Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

PPC works with PDA to provide free replacement resources for those congregations that have experienced property damage and loss. This service is in the form of a grant for credit up to \$1,500 toward Westminster John Knox Press books, Geneva Press books, and These Days and Thoughtful Christian subscriptions. Resources include hymnals, church school curriculum, some texts and other printed material. Contact Presbyterian Publishing for further information.

### Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program

This program has a special distressed churches fund with loans available at below their normal interest rates. Contact PILP directly for further information.

**Questions** can be answered by Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, PDA's Associate for Disaster Response in the U.S., at [pda.help@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.help@pcusa.org); 502/569-8800 or Beth Snyder at [beth.snyder@pcusa.org](mailto:beth.snyder@pcusa.org); (502) 569-5806.