

2025 West Coast Storm Newsletter



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Transition to Temporary Housing Begins for Impacted Residents

The first group of families currently sheltered in hotels will move into Temporary Housing the week of December 8th. This milestone marks the next step for Alaskans displaced by the 2025 West Coast Storms.

Temporary Housing units consist of apartment buildings located throughout the Anchorage area.

Priority will be given to Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) residents currently housed in hotels in Anchorage.

Impacted Alaskans living with friends or family in other localities will be moved into temporary housing once the hotel residents have been successfully relocated or will be able to use FEMA rental assistance to find their own accommodations.

Temporary Housing case workers will reach out to NCS residents in the coming days to identify those who are ready to move and to help residents who need assistance before they can transition to temporary housing.

NCS residents who have already been approved for FEMA rental assistance are asked to coordinate with Tidal Basin staff at their hotels.

Residents who have not applied for FEMA rental assistance should do this now to secure funding for temporary housing.

Volunteers will be available to assist with moving packed boxes; however, they are unable to pack individual personal belongings.



Team Rubicon volunteers move donated furniture.

Donated furniture is available to people moving into temporary housing, while some units are pre-furnished.

Welcome kits with basic items like cleaning supplies, paper products, and other essentials will also be available.

Larger family groups may be placed in multiple units located near one another.

Free YMCA Childcare and Memberships for Families and Individuals Displaced by West Coast Storms

Families and individuals who relocated to Anchorage after the 2025 West Coast Storms now have access to free childcare and YMCA memberships through 2025, thanks to generous support from the YMCA of Alaska. These benefits are available to all evacuees who can provide proof of residency in an impacted community.

Free Childcare Options

The YMCA is offering a full range of no-cost childcare services, including:

- Afterschool care
- School in-service day programs
- Winter Break Camp
- Spring Break Camp

Care is available at multiple Anchorage locations.

For details or enrollment questions, contact: Kids@YMCAAlaska.org or call 907-563-3211, ext. 142.

Free YMCA of Alaska Memberships

Membership provides access to fitness facilities, classes, open gym time, and family recreation opportunities - helpful for both physical health and stress relief during recovery.

To sign up or ask questions, email Membership@YMCAAlaska.org.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town Dec. 14

Operation Santa is landing in Anchorage from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the [Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage](#), 8800 Heritage Center Drive.

This 70-year-old tradition, presented by the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Alaska National Guard, will bring some holiday cheer to families and individuals who are in Anchorage for the holidays.

The event will include food and gifts for attendees. Tables will be staffed nearby with cultural and other resources for impacted residents.



Hot Foods Eligible for Purchase by SNAP Recipients

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients can use their Alaska Quest Card to purchase hot food items at SNAP-authorized convenience and grocery stores statewide now through Dec. 20, thanks to a federally approved waiver.

Hot, fully prepared, ready-to-eat foods such as hot deli meals, pre-made sandwiches, rotisserie chicken, pizza, hot soup and other foods meant to be eaten immediately are included in the waiver.

Things to Know

- SNAP benefit amounts and eligibility remain the same.
- Regular cold groceries may still be purchased in the waiver period.
- All other SNAP rules remain in place. The waiver does not allow the purchase of alcohol, tobacco, vitamin supplements, toiletries, pet food, or non-food items.
- The waiver expires on Dec. 20, 2025, unless extended.

Reuniting Pets and Families After the Storm

During a recent visit to Kipnuk, Department of Environmental Conservation Deputy Commissioner Crystal Koeneman noticed a black-and-white dog watching her from the schoolyard - a moment she said "stopped me in my tracks."

That photo led to Operation Boots, where staff discovered the dog had a family evacuated to Anchorage.



Working with Bethel Friends of Canines, DEC, and local partners, responders reunited Boots and several other pets with their owners. The State Vet Office has since helped confirm remaining animals are safe and cared for in their communities.

More than 200 dogs were evacuated from impacted villages, thanks to volunteers and agencies. About 125 have been reunited with their families, but about 20 remain unclaimed. **Owners must come forward by Dec. 15, 2025, to claim their pets.**

View unclaimed dogs at AlaskaTyphoonDogs.org or call the Pet Help Hotline at 907-615-8904. After the Dec. 15 deadline, unclaimed dogs will be spayed/neutered and placed for adoption.



About 50 claimed dogs are in long-term foster care until owners secure housing. Owners must check in with Anchorage Animal Care and Control by calling 907-343-8138 or their shelter before Dec. 15 to confirm contact info, whether they will retain ownership, and foster duration.

For issues with dogs in non-congregate housing, and to bring your pet with you to temporary housing, contact David Rosales at Tidal Basin, 480-433-2615.

Don't Miss Out on Help - Apply for Assistance

Applying to multiple assistance programs increases your chances of receiving the full support your family needs, whether that's help with temporary housing, home repairs, personal property, transportation, or other essential needs.

Each program provides different types of support, and no single program covers every kind of loss—this is why it's important to apply for more than one.

And remember: you can apply online or over the phone

If you're unsure where to begin, shelter staff and on-site partners can help guide you through the process.

The sooner you apply, the sooner assistance can begin.

Scan the QR codes or click the links below to begin your assistance applications.



**State of Alaska
Individual Assistance**
Deadline: Jan. 8, 2026



**FEMA Individual
Assistance**
Deadline: Dec. 22, 2025



**Disaster Unemployment
Assistance**
Deadline: Dec. 22, 2025



**Small Business
Administration (SBA)
Disaster Loans**
Deadline: Dec. 22, 2025



**American Red Cross
Financial Assistance**
Deadline Extended:
Dec. 12, 2025



Scan the QR code or visit Ready.Alaska.gov for a list of resources and regular updates related to the 2025 West Coast Storm.

