

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IAN

## Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Financial Toolkit

Any consumer or patient that has debt(s) in collections should be aware that The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has published a **guide** with suggestions on how to handle their finances during a disaster such as after a hurricane or other emergency. The guide offers resources to assist in the recovery effort such as tackling housing issues, protecting your finances during an emergency, dealing with property damage and managing bills. The bureau also shares tips if you are helping others rebuild, including ways to safely send money through mobile apps. The CFPB also offers a list of resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross, among others.

## Internal Revenue Service Tax Relief

For those that are affected by Hurricane Ian, they will have until February 15th, 2023, to file various individual and business tax returns and make tax payments. The IRS offer applies to any area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**). Individuals and households that reside or have a business anywhere in the state of Florida qualify for tax relief. The current list of eligible localities is always available on the **disaster relief** page on **IRS.gov**.

## Emergency Communications

The Federal Communications Commission, FCC, has made available emergency communications needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in relation to the effects of the hurricane. It urges emergency communications providers to contact the **FCC Operations Center for assistance**. It also **published procedures** for providing emergency communications in certain Florida counties impacted by the hurricane, with guidance on special temporary authority (STA) for wireless telecommunications and other needs in the aftermath of the storms.