

Drafted: August 28, 2017

In June 2011, AHIMA and the AHIMA Foundation announced the creation of the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund, an ongoing recovery source to assist communities of health information professionals whose personal or professional lives have been severely disrupted by a natural or man-made disaster. HIM professionals in areas affected by disasters face a unique challenge as they struggle to piece back together their own lives while working to recover as much of their community's patient information as possible.

### **For Members Affected by Disaster**

Provided they meet the eligibility requirements, AHIMA members in recently declared disaster areas are invited to submit an application for up to \$500 to assist in their efforts to return to work while recovering from the disaster. Only applicants who meet the following criteria will be considered for financial assistance:

- Applicant must live and/or work in a county that has been declared a [FEMA-designated disaster](#) area within the past 12 months
- Applicant must have an active registered AHIMA membership prior to the date that the county was declared a FEMA disaster area
- All applications will be verified by the member's local CSA

Eligible applicants can apply for financial assistance by completing and submitting the [HIRO Fund Assistance Application](#) as directed on the form. Upon verification by AHIMA Foundation and the applicant's CSA, financial assistance will be distributed to applicants as available and in as timely a manner as possible.

### **HIRO Fund Tweets**

#### Encouraging Donation Support (#BeAHIRO):

- ## states impacted by severe weather, ## million under severe weather watch. #BeAHIRO to AHIMA member in need. Donate <https://tinyurl.com/AHIMAHIRO>
- Severe weather continues to impact the US, with your donation the HIRO Fund will be there to help <https://tinyurl.com/AHIMAHIRO>
- The weather may be dangerous for many parts of the US but you can make it brighter for a member in need <https://tinyurl.com/AHIMAHIRO>
- You can't predict disasters but you can ensure there will be help for members. Give to the Foundation's HIRO Fund: <https://tinyurl.com/AHIMAHIRO>
- #BeAHIRO to a member affected by the severe weather. Donate now to the HIRO Fund <https://tinyurl.com/AHIMAHIRO>

#### Communicating to Members in need (#HIRO)

- If you're an HIM professional affected by a natural or man-made disaster, find out how the #HIRO Fund can help: <http://tinyurl.com/HIROhelp>

- Know that the #HIRO fund will be there to help our members weather the storm <http://tinyurl.com/HIROhelp>
- The #HIRO fund can't predict disaster it can ensure there will be help for AHIMA members in need <http://tinyurl.com/HIROhelp>
- The #HIRO fund will be available to AHIMA members recovering from disasters. Learn more <http://tinyurl.com/HIROhelp>

#### Disaster Planning and Recovery Tools

- AHIMA offers many disaster planning and recovery tools to help you be prepared. Login now <http://tinyurl.com/RecoveryAHIMA>
- Login to AHIMA to stay abreast of proper disaster planning protocols and take advantage of the available tools <http://tinyurl.com/RecoveryAHIMA>
- AHIMA toolkit can help you respond to external requests for health information in a disaster situation. Login to <http://tinyurl.com/RecoveryAHIMA>

#### **Facebook Post**

#### Encouraging Donation Support:

- Be a HIRO by making a donation to the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) fund today. Your donation helps the AHIMA Foundation provide assistance to individual members affected by disasters. Make a donation to assist HIM professionals whose lives and communities have been shattered by natural or man-made catastrophe.

Donate to the relief effort: <http://www.ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx>

- The next few days look dangerous for many parts of the U.S. – know that while you might not be able to predict disasters, you can ensure there will be help for our members. Donate now to the HIRO fund: <http://www.ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx>
- This is not the last year that disasters will strike, but the HIRO Fund keeps the AHIMA community prepared to answer at once the call to members in need. Give now: <http://www.ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx>

#### Communicating to Members in need

- Through the generosity of AHIMA members the AHIMA Foundation is able to provide material relief to those whose professional practice has been thrust above and beyond the call of duty through the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund. The HIRO fund is an ongoing disaster recovery fund to assist HIM professionals who's life and communities have been shattered by natural or man-made events.

Find out how the HIRO fund can help: <http://www.ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx>

- The AHIMA Foundation's Health Information Relief Operation Fund provides assistance to those members who even today are struggling to piece back together their own lives while, in many

cases, also helping restore healthcare services for neighborhoods that have been torn apart by natural disasters. Learn how to apply for HIRO fund assistance:

<http://www.ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx>

- This is not the last year that disasters will strike, but victims of these tragedies will not be alone; they can request immediate support from their HIM colleagues. AHIMA members and supports have generously given to support the HIRO fund to assist HIM professional affected by natural or man-made disasters. Learn how to apply for HIRO fund assistance:

<http://www.ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx>

#### Disaster Planning and Recovery Tools

- As HIM professionals, we are bound to the overall management of data, its confidentiality, privacy, and security. It is important to stay abreast of proper disaster planning protocols and take advantage of the available tools. Refresh your knowledge and skills regarding how to appropriately respond to external requests for health information from victims' family, the media, and law enforcement in a disaster situation.

Click [here](#) (hyperlink: <http://bok.ahima.org/doc?oid=300072#.WaWIHLKGOot> ) for the AHIMA Disaster Planning and Recovery toolkit - free to members.



Communicating HIRO fund support/applying for assistance

- **The HIRO Fund can help**

Have you been affected by a natural disaster, or know of a member who has? The AHIMA Foundation is accepting applications from members to receive assistance from the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund. The HIRO Fund is an ongoing disaster recovery fund to assist HIM professionals and their communities in recovering from natural or man-made events. AHIMA members in recently-declared disaster areas are invited to submit an application for up to \$500 to assist in their efforts to return to work while recovering from the disaster. To learn more about the eligibility requirements, please see the [HIRO Fund](http://ahimafoundation.org/support/HIRO.aspxwebpage) { <http://ahimafoundation.org/support/HIRO.aspxwebpage> }

This is not the last year that disasters will strike, but victims of these tragedies will not be alone; they can request immediate support from their HIM colleagues —but only with your help and support. For more information on the fund, and to donate to the relief effort, visit the [AHIMA Foundation HIRO Fund](http://ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx) { <http://ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx> } Web page.

- **Support the AHIMA Foundation HIRO Fund**

The Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund is an ongoing recovery source to assist HIM professionals whose lives and communities have been shattered by natural or man-made disasters. Through the generosity of AHIMA members and HIM's greater professional community, and begun with a \$10,000 donation from AHIMA, the HIRO Fund (pronounced "hero") provides material relief to those whose professional practices have been significantly shaken.

We can't predict when disasters will strike, but we can predict there will be help for our members. With your help and support, victims of these tragedies do not have to go without the immediate support of their HIM colleagues.

For more information on the fund, and to donate to the relief effort, visit the [AHIMA Foundation HIRO Fund](http://ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx) { <http://ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx> } Web page. Eligible applicants can apply for financial assistance by completing and submitting the [HIRO Fund Assistance Application](http://ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx) { <http://ahimafoundation.org/Support/HIRO.aspx> }.

## Disaster Planning and Recovery Resources Tools

- **AHIMA Disaster Planning and Recovery Resources**

Regardless of whether a disaster is natural or man-made, the implementation of an appropriate disaster plan and response for the affected communities is crucial. As HIM professionals, we are bound to the overall management of data, its confidentiality, privacy, and security. It is important to stay abreast of proper disaster planning protocols and take advantage of the available tools. Refresh your knowledge and skills regarding how to appropriately respond to external requests for health information from victims' family, the media, and law enforcement in a disaster situation. Visit [ahima.org](http://ahima.org) to view these resources.

[[http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/secure/documents/ahima/bok1\\_050296.pdf](http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/secure/documents/ahima/bok1_050296.pdf)]

In addition, the AHIMA/AHIMA Foundation's HIRO Fund is an ongoing effort to assist HIM professionals affected by disasters. This will not be the last year that disasters will strike, but with the support of AHIMA members, it will be the last time that they go through these experiences alone. Learn more by visiting the [AHIMA Foundation](http://ahimafoundation.org/support/HIRO.aspx) website [ <http://ahimafoundation.org/support/HIRO.aspx>

- **Disaster Planning and Recover Resources available from AHIMA**

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[http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/secure/documents/ahima/bok1\\_050296.pdf](http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/secure/documents/ahima/bok1_050296.pdf)) for the AHIMA Disaster Planning and Recovery toolkit - free to members.

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<http://ahimafoundation.org/support/HIRO.aspx>



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