



THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE IMPACT REPORT

MAY 16TH, 2025 ST. LOUIS TORNADO

ACTION
—St. Louis—

**THE
PEOPLE'S
RESPONSE**



Photos on cover and this page by Tyler Small

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THE PEOPLE'S

Dear Community,

On May 16, 2025, a tornado tore through North St. Louis, damaging homes, displacing families, and revealing once again the cost of generations of disinvestment in our neighborhoods. Less than 48 hours later, The People's Response was born—not from an institution or mandate, but from a deep desire to act, to care, and to protect our people.

What began as a call to respond quickly transformed into a full-scale, community-powered relief hub. Over six weeks, we served thousands of residents through direct supply distribution, community clean ups, coordinated door-to-door deliveries, and a system that tracked needs and ensured follow-up. We built something that was both urgent and deeply intentional.

This effort was made possible by the people—by the staff of Action St. Louis and leaders of ForTheCultureSTL, who showed up every single day with commitment and care. By our partner organizations who brought vision, infrastructure, and relationships that held this work together.

We were lifted by foundations and community organizations that trusted our leadership and resourced our work through institutional support. Local businesses and artists leveraged their platforms, creativity, and networks to fundraise and amplify the response. And most importantly, every single person who dropped off supplies, made a donation, or volunteered their time became the heartbeat of this operation. You are why we could meet the moment with power and love.

This report reflects the scale and scope of what's possible when community leads. It is also a mirror to the failures of systems that should have acted faster, reached farther, and been better prepared to serve our people. The need in North City remains profound. While The People's Response has shown what's possible, we are clear that sustained, long-term recovery must be led and resourced by city and state institutions—with accountability to the people most impacted.

North St. Louis has always deserved more. With this report, we lift up the truth of what happened, what we built together, and what still lies ahead. The work is not over. But neither is our resolve.



Photo taken on Sunday, May 18th, at the second day of the People's Response Hub at O'Fallon Park Rec Center

In love and solidarity,

Kayla Reed
Executive Director, Action St. Louis

Ohun Ashe
Founder, ForTheCultureSTL

'S RESPONSE



Photos on page 4 and 5 by Tyler Small

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 16, 2025, a tornado tore through Black neighborhoods in North St. Louis, deepening the harm caused by generations of disinvestment, neglect, and structural inequality. In the immediate aftermath, Action St. Louis and ForTheCultureSTL launched The People's Response, a community-led effort rooted in dignity, care and solidarity.

Beginning operations on May 17 at the O'Fallon Park YMCA, The People's Response established a centralized relief hub that provided daily access to food, water, hygiene supplies, diapers, cleaning products, and connection to long-term support. As the need expanded, the hub transitioned to Kingdom Church STL on June 12 and continued serving residents through June 28.

In just six weeks, from May 16 to June 28, over 10,000 volunteers stepped forward, supporting more than 7,000 unique households. Together, they cleared debris with over 3,000 volunteers, delivered more than 5,000 supply packages through Relief Dash, supported over 3,000 households with in-person supply pickups, and served more than 21,000 meals. Families received immediate support with respect and compassion, without the barriers often imposed by formal systems.

Most of those served live in North St. Louis neighborhoods such as College Hill, Penrose, O'Fallon, The Ville, Greater Ville, Fountain Park, Lewis Place, and Academy. Residents in these communities have endured deep, ongoing challenges rooted in economic hardship, isolation from essential services, and chronic disinvestment. The People's Response operated daily to fill the gaps left by delayed and insufficient government action, and became a trusted space for relief, coordination, and healing.

This was not simply a moment of emergency response. It was the result of years of community organizing, infrastructure building, and leadership development in Black neighborhoods. What we created was not just a hub—it was a demonstration of what is possible when community leads and love is the foundation.





Photo by Nyara Williams, Neur World

The Scale of Unmet Needs

While The People's Response met 100 percent of food and supply needs (serving 4,331 households), other critical areas remain dangerously under-addressed:

- » 17,602 needs were reported through the resident intake form, with 62 percent still unclaimed.
- » Housing and shelter needs remain 100 percent unmet (2,403 households).

- » Home repair and stabilization needs remain 97 percent unfulfilled (4,176 households).
- » Debris cleanup and health needs remain critically under-addressed (84 percent and 46 percent unmet, respectively).

Recovery in North St. Louis is at risk as unmet needs mount and city support lags. Homes once deemed repairable are deteriorating into unlivable conditions, pushing families toward displacement.

A Call to Action »»

Recovery will take more than days or weeks. It will require a sustained commitment from city and state leaders to meet the scale of need with long-term investment, partnership, and accountability. The data collected by The People's Response is a tool for transparency and a mandate for action.

Our recommendations are clear:

- » **Provide direct funding and resource support for grassroots hubs and volunteer networks.**
- » **Accelerate debris removal and building stabilization with additional contractors.**

- » **Expand medical and behavioral health funding to address both immediate and long-term health risks.**
- » **Develop and clearly communicate a comprehensive housing and repair plan that includes mold remediation and rental assistance.**

North City is our North Star. Every step we take is guided by the belief that **Black families deserve stability, safety, and the resources to thrive.** The People's Response is just the beginning of what must be a broader effort to make North St. Louis whole.

TORNADO IMPACT

On May 16, 2025, an EF-3 tornado tore through St. Louis, carving a mile-wide path for more than 20 miles and devastating historic Black neighborhoods in North St. Louis. The storm ripped roofs from homes, uprooted trees, and left entire communities cut off from one another. According to the City of St. Louis, over 5,000 structures were damaged, with property losses estimated at \$1.6 billion. Five people were killed and at least 38 others injured—a toll that may have since risen as the full scope of the tragedy unfolds.

The Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance estimates that approximately 90 percent of the renters in these zip codes could be uninsured, while the number of uninsured homes could be around 67 percent. Three of the most heavily impacted zip codes (63115, 63107, and 63113) — all north of Delmar Blvd. — are also the most heavily uninsured. These neighborhoods, already burdened by systemic disinvestment north of Delmar Blvd, now face one of the city’s worst natural disasters compounded by economic vulnerability.

Impacted areas include the following neighborhoods and parks located along the path of the tornado:

<i>Academy</i>	<i>Greater Ville</i>	<i>Penrose</i>
<i>Baden</i>	<i>Hamilton Heights</i>	<i>Skinker</i>
<i>Central West End</i>	<i>Jeff Vanderlou</i>	<i>DeBaliviere</i>
<i>College Hill</i>	<i>Kingsway East</i>	<i>The Ville</i>
<i>DeBaliviere Place</i>	<i>Kingsway West</i>	<i>Vandeventer</i>
<i>Fairground</i>	<i>Lewis Place</i>	<i>Visitation Park</i>
<i>Fairground Park</i>	<i>Mark Twain</i>	<i>Wells</i>
<i>Forest Park</i>	<i>North Riverfront</i>	<i>Goodfellow</i>
<i>Fountain Park</i>	<i>O’Fallon</i>	<i>West End</i>
	<i>O’Fallon Park</i>	<i>Wydown</i>
		<i>Skinker</i>

The tornado path is shown in Figure 1, with the colored boundaries illustrating how the city has defined Zones A, B, and C. These zones were established to focus response efforts on the areas most directly impacted by the tornado. However, The People’s Response extended its efforts beyond these boundaries, supporting households throughout the St. Louis region. Many families outside the designated zones sought assistance because their homes were damaged and unlivable, leaving them with no choice but to relocate.

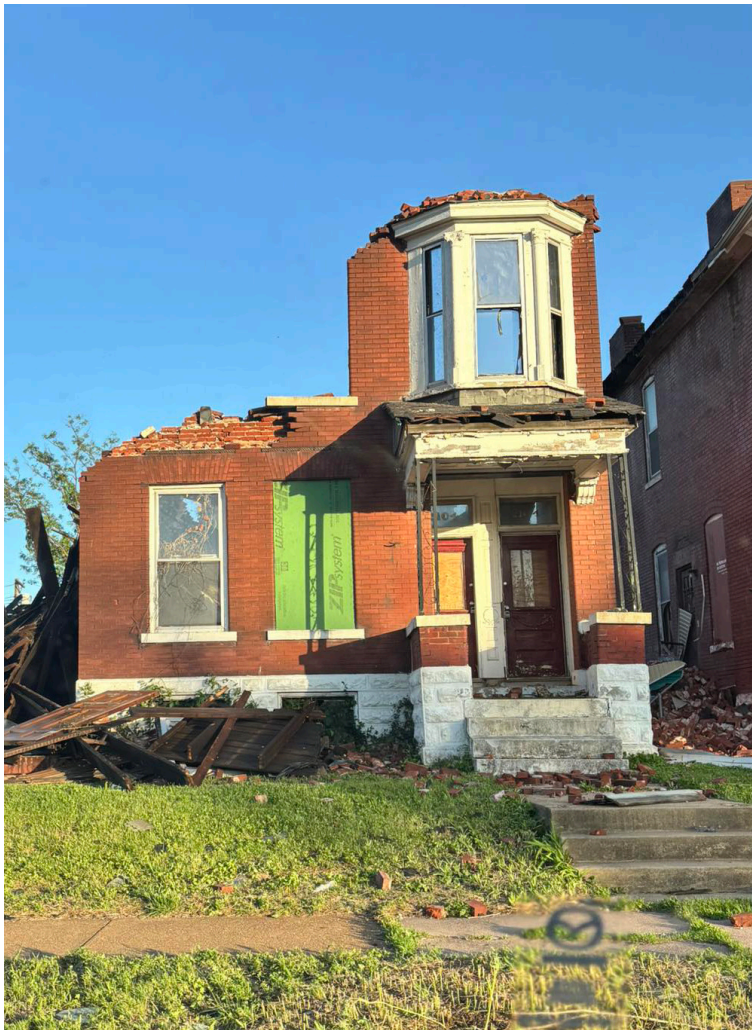
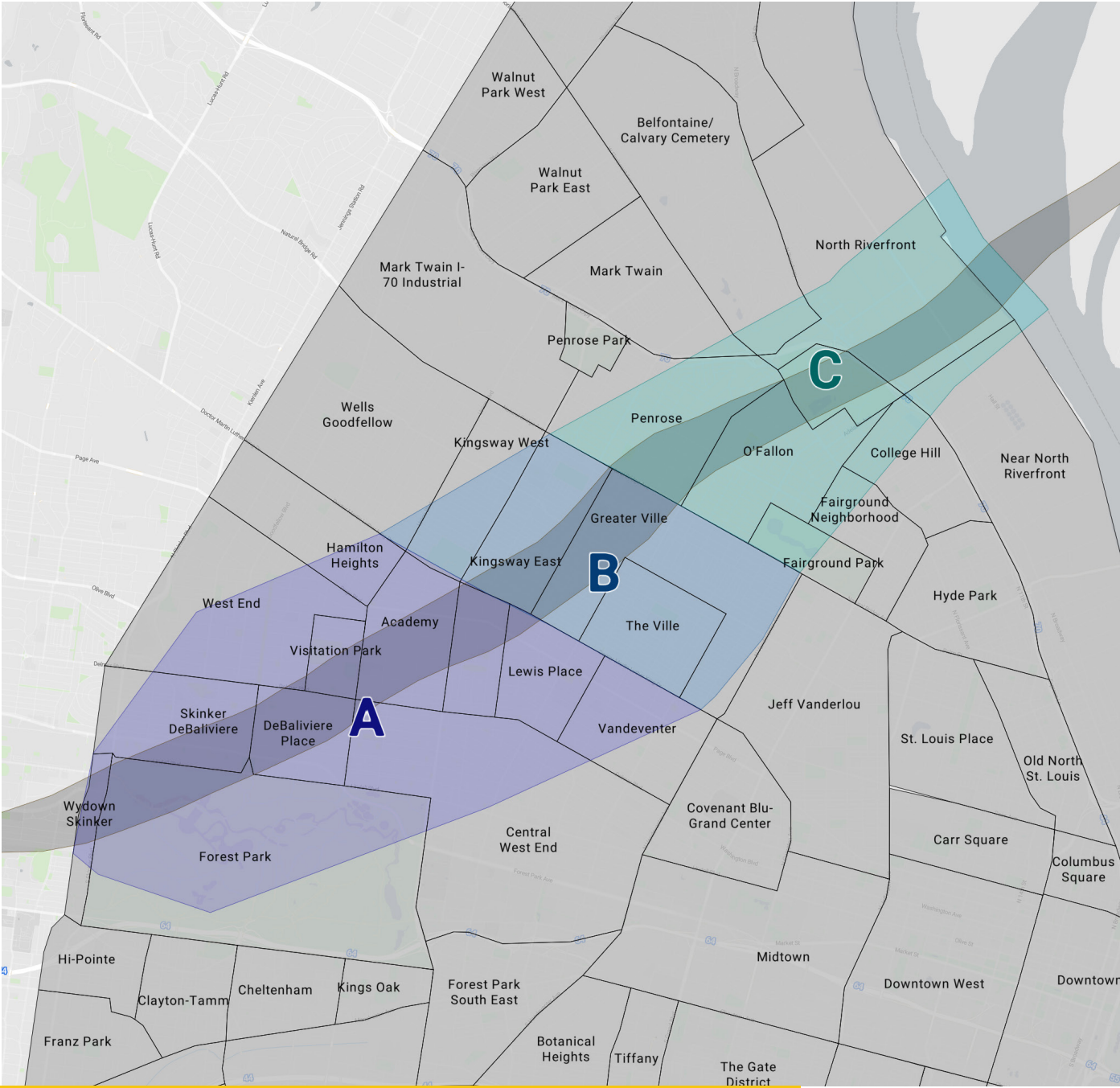


FIGURE 1: Tornado Path



The total number of properties in the impact zones is estimated to be about 15,528. Of those properties, the total number of occupied residential properties is estimated to be about 12,637. The total number of vacant properties is estimated to be 2,890.

Demographic + Geographic Context

These communities were already experiencing significant challenges prior to the storm, including economic instability, disinvestment, and limited access to critical services. The tornado has compounded these issues by damaging homes, uprooting trees, downing power lines, and disrupting daily life for thousands.

RACE 85-96% of residents in the impacted communities are Black	AVERAGE RENT \$669-\$1467 average rent for impacted communities	SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 0.29-0.97 index range for impacted census tracts
POVERTY 15-50% of residents live below the poverty line <i>Median*: 23% of residents live below the poverty line</i>	HOUSING AGE 34-87% of homes in the impacted area were built before 1939 <i>Median: 59% of homes were built before 1939</i>	<i>Median: 0.81</i> <i>Social vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors. These stressors can include natural or human-caused disasters (such as tornadoes or chemical spills) or disease outbreaks (such as COVID-19). Social vulnerability is scored from 0 to 1 using the following range:</i>
HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$22-84K Household income range in the impacted communities <i>Median Household Income: \$41,100</i>	VEHICLE ACCESS 11-39% of residents in the impacted communities have zero access to a vehicle <i>Median: 29%</i>	<i>Low: 0 to 0.2500</i> <i>Low-Moderate: 0.2501 to 0.5000</i> <i>Moderate-High: 0.5001 to 0.7500</i> <i>High: 0.7501 to 1.0</i>
HOUSING OWNERSHIP 33-91% of residents in the impacted area were renters <i>Median: 64% of residents were renters</i>	DIGITAL ACCESS 0-40% of households in the impacted area did not have home Internet access <i>Median: 10%</i>	<i>*A Median is a middle-point measure, meaning that 50% of a community is above, while the other 50% falls below the stated number. This is important because it helps us understand the true range of living situations in our communities.</i>

»» \$ Living Wage for a family of four in the St. Louis City with two working adults is roughly \$52,270

HEALTH VULNERABILITY

0-4

index range for impacted communities

Median: 3

The Health Vulnerability Module (HVM) contains indicators of pre-existing chronic health conditions that can make people more vulnerable to the effects of environmental living hazards. The HVM scoring is calculated from 0 to 5 based on high estimated prevalence of the following: asthma, cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, and poor mental health.

ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN

0.60-0.97

index range for impacted census tracts

Median: 0.88

The Environmental Burden Module (EBM) contains environmental indicators that either cause pollution or otherwise negatively affect human health. The EBM contains indicators relating to air pollution, potentially hazardous and toxic sites, the built environment, pollution related to transportation, and water pollution. Environmental burden is scored from 0 to 1 using the following range:

Low: 0 to 0.2500

Low-Moderate: 0.2501 to 0.5000

Moderate-High: 0.5001 to 0.7500

High: 0.7501 to 1.0

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

0.35-1

index range for impacted communities

Median: 0.92

The Environmental Justice Index (EJI) is the first national, place-based tool designed to measure the cumulative impacts of environmental burden through 36 environmental, social, and health factors.

The EJI is scored from 0 to 1 using the following range:

Low: 0 to 0.2500

Low-Moderate: 0.2501 to 0.5000

Moderate-High: 0.5001 to 0.7500

High: 0.7501 to 1.0



THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Less than 24 hours after the EF-3 tornado touched down in North St. Louis on May 16, 2025, Action St. Louis and ForTheCultureSTL mobilized to launch The People's Response—a community-led relief effort grounded in love, urgency, and the unwavering commitment to protect and serve Black neighborhoods.

The People's Response represents the community members, organizations, and impacted residents who came together to self-deploy and stand in the gap while the government moved slowly for immediate response to the devastation caused by the tornado. When The People's Response first came together, it was for the immediate care of the most vulnerable neighborhoods. It grew into a response centered on community and people to ensure Black neighborhoods are provided stability, safety, and resources to thrive.

The People's Response at O'Fallon Park YMCA

The O'Fallon Park YMCA at 4343 West Florissant Avenue served as the central hub of operations for The People's Response. The site officially opened on May 17, just one day after the tornado, and operated daily through June 6. Due to high community need and overwhelming volunteer support, the hub extended its operations multiple times due to the City of St. Louis not having a plan for a smooth transition of resource hubs in Zones B and C.

TIMELINE

MAY 16

The People's Response launched in the immediate aftermath of the tornado

*"The site has become a critical and trusted point of care."
- Volunteer*

MAY 17

Daily operations began at the O'Fallon Park YMCA

MAY 20

Announced extension through May 25

"People are walking here from miles away. That tells you how deep the need is." - Volunteer

MAY 23

Announced extension through May 31

"We are seeing more families come every day as word spreads." - Volunteer

MAY 30

Announced extension through June 6



At the YMCA, the hub operated with daily public hours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., providing residents with critical resources including food, water, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, baby essentials, and home stabilization materials. Volunteers played a crucial role in making this possible, working in rotating shifts to navigate intake, organize supplies, create care packages, and support walk-up and delivery-based relief.

Each day followed a consistent and community-centered rhythm:

Daily Operations Schedule at The People's Response Hub

8:30 to 10:00 a.m. – Set-up and volunteer team briefing

- » *Volunteers arrive and check in*
- » *Team leads review safety protocols, assignments, and goals for the day*
- » *Stations are set up for meal service, supply intake, distribution, and dispatch*

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Hub open to the public

- » **Walk-up and drive-through service:** *Residents receive food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and stabilization materials*
- » **Relief Dash operations:** *Volunteer drivers receive delivery routes and supply packs to deliver directly to residents unable to reach the hub*
- » **Clean-up crew dispatch:** *Teams equipped with gloves, tools, trash bags, and materials are sent into impacted neighborhoods for debris removal and basic home stabilization*

- » **Donation drop-off line:** *Public donors drop off supplies such as bottled water, diapers, tarps, and non-perishables, which are logged and sorted*
- » **Sorting and packaging:** *Dedicated volunteers categorize incoming donations and prepare customized care packages based on family needs*
- » **Volunteer rotations and water breaks:** *Staff ensures adequate hydration and cooling for all volunteers, especially during extreme heat*
- » **Lunch meal service:** *Teams served hot meals to neighborhoods north of Natural Bridge Avenue at West Florissant and Harris Avenue, and also delivered meals to locations such as senior centers*

3:00 p.m. – Public service ends and site closes

- » *Final walk-ups and deliveries are completed*
- » *Supplies are secured and traffic lanes are cleared*

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Breakdown, sorting donations, and prepping for the next day

- » *Leftover items are organized for redistribution*
- » *Tables, tents, and stations are cleaned and reset*
- » *Team leads debrief and assess needs for the next day's operations*

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Dinner hot meal service

- » *Teams served hot meals to neighborhoods north of Natural Bridge Avenue at West Florissant and Harris Avenue, and also delivered meals to locations such as senior centers*

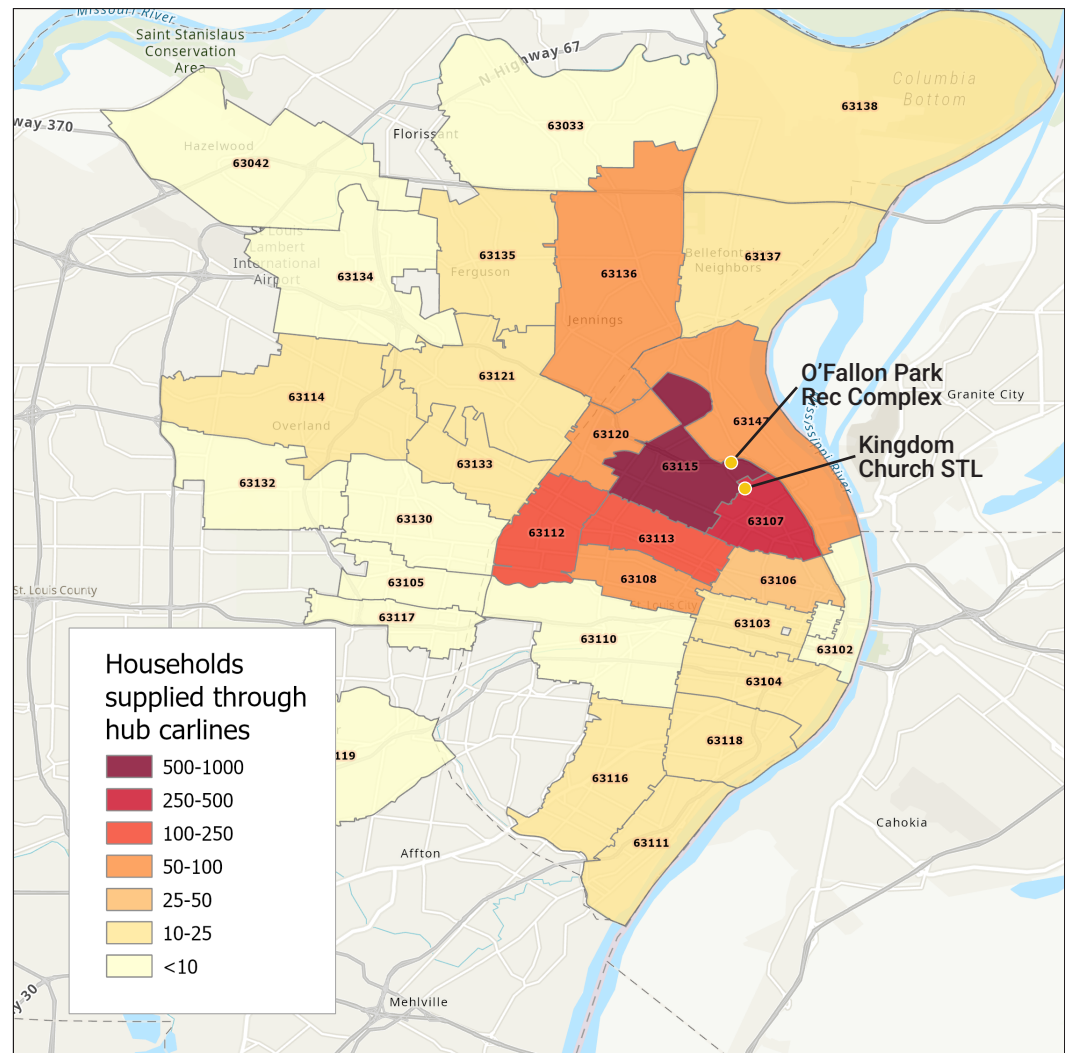
The hub remained open every day from May 17 through June 6, with the exception of Memorial Day, when hours were reduced, and Monday, June 2, when the team paused operations for a day of collective rest and restoration.

Volunteers worked tirelessly to receive, sort, and repack thousands of donated goods. Each day, care packages were assembled with intention and care—ensuring families received not only food, hygiene, and cleaning supplies, but also essential home repair items like tarps, plywood, nails, wood, gloves, and tools to help stabilize damage and protect their homes.

Because of the capacity of the hub, the team was also able to supply other relief sites with regular deliveries of supplies to help sustain their operations—including 4theVille, 314 Oasis, Freedom Community Center, and several efforts based in churches, storefronts, and neighborhood-led sites.

The People’s Response at the YMCA quickly became a trusted and reliable resource in the heart of North St. Louis. Residents came not only to meet urgent needs but to experience care without conditions. From organizing crates of bottled water to hauling sheets of plywood, every volunteer effort contributed to a larger ecosystem of support and solidarity.

FIGURE 2: Households Supplied Through Hub Carlines, collectively



Transition to Kingdom Church STL and Continued Operations

The People's Response team worked quickly to find a new location once the O'Fallon Park Rec Center was no longer available. After assessing options and speaking with community partners, we secured Kingdom Church STL, located at 4112 West Florissant Avenue, as our new staging and coordination site.

On June 11, The People's Response announced that the Hub would resume operations at this new location beginning June 12, with public service hours on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

While Kingdom Church STL served as the primary staging facility for volunteers, supply management, and coordination, the public-facing relief distribution site was located at the corner of West Florissant Avenue and Fair Avenue, in the parking lot of Ronald E. Jones Funeral Home. This highly visible and accessible location allowed us to continue meeting the needs of residents in one of the tornado's most heavily impacted corridors.

As community donations continued to come in, The People's Response team maintained a steady stream of essential goods. The City of St. Louis's commitment to supporting hub continuation through sustained supply distribution proved inconsistent. In response, the Action St. Louis' team began purchasing supplies daily to ensure residents could continue

receiving food, water, hygiene products, cleaning materials, and stabilization tools without disruption.

The hub's adaptability in this new location was a testament to the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, the generosity of our partners, and the deep need that persisted weeks after the initial disaster. Operations continued even as St. Louis experienced a dangerous heat wave, with record high temperatures that made relief work physically demanding and the need for supplies even more urgent. Though the site shifted, the spirit of The People's Response remained unchanged—meeting people where they are with compassion, respect, and urgency.

FIGURE 2.1: Kingdom Church Carlines

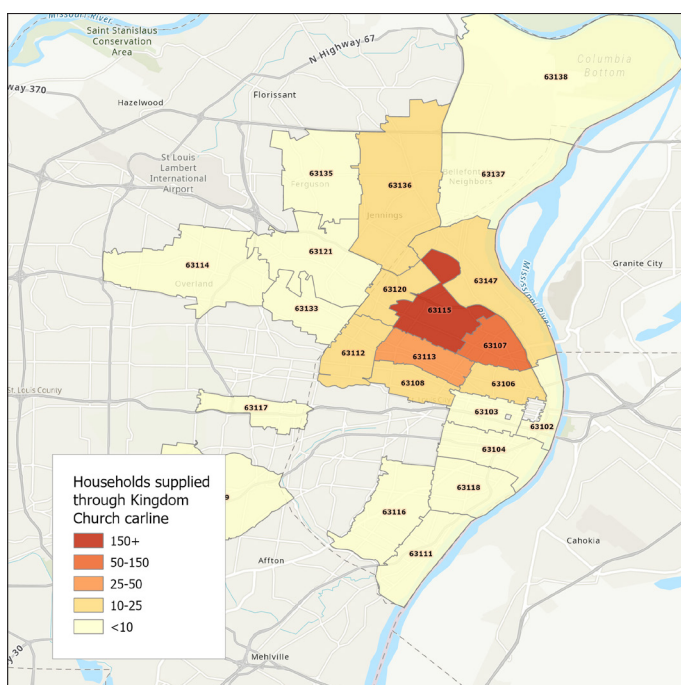
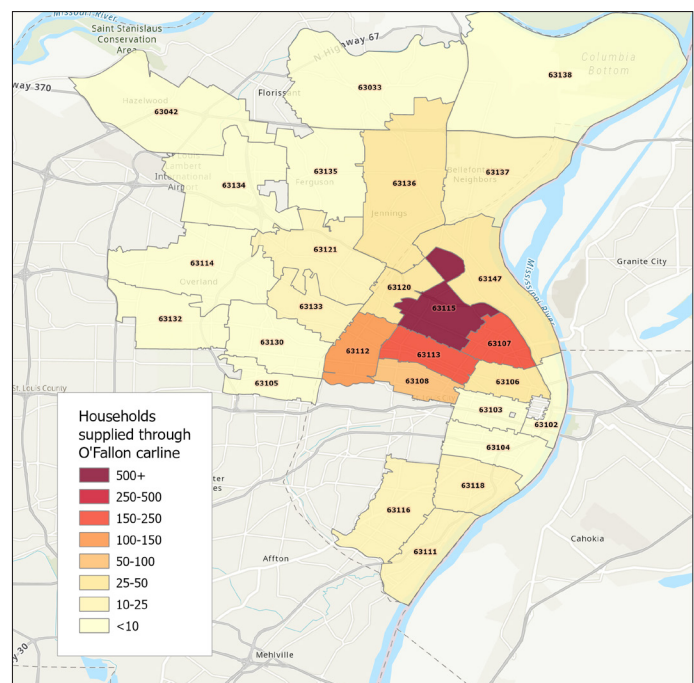


FIGURE 2.2: O'Fallon Park Carlines



Challenges

In the critical first day after the tornado, the government was consumed with learning internal systems, conducting investigations, and setting up response structures. **This slow start left North St. Louis communities—already among the hardest hit—forced to self-navigate for life-saving resources.** In disaster recovery, every hour matters; each delay can mean the difference between saving a life or saving a home.

The People's Response self-deployed and mobilized to ensure Black neighborhoods were not left behind.

Action St. Louis, ForTheCultureSTL, and other partners met with city officials to demand better resource distribution, clearer communication, and support for community-led resource hubs. While waiting for government action, these organizations relied on their own limited reserves to fill gaps.

For example, The People's Response acted quickly on May 17 by purchasing eight private dumpsters to place across North St. Louis, recognizing that residents urgently needed a place to move debris in order to reopen streets and sidewalks. Over \$10,000 was spent on dumpsters through late June to meet

this critical need. The team also acknowledges that many neighborhood associations and individual residents paid for private dumpsters themselves, as the City was unable—and remains unable—to meet the demand for timely and efficient debris removal.

Another glaring example of this failure was the set up of the city's central warehouse, which did not open for supply distribution until early June—and even then, it was understocked and unable to meet the demand. During a June heat wave, the warehouse ran out of water, forcing Action St. Louis and partners to pool their resources to keep residents hydrated and safe.

Despite repeated communications to the Mayor's Office about the slow and inadequate response, organizations were left to 'hold the gap,' particularly in Zone C—neighborhoods north of Natural Bridge Avenue that were among the most devastated.

Photo by Tyler Small



Partnerships

The People's Response is possible because of the partnerships with our partners who helped sustain the efforts of the Resource Hubs. This section highlights some of the partners in alphabetical order who helped support the efforts.

- » **4theVille** and **Invest STL** in partnership with **Dream Builders 4 Equity** operated the 4theVille Emergency Hub at 4144 Martin Luther King Dr. The resource hub served as a critical leader in leading the stabilization of homes in North St. Louis, served families with supplies, and mobilized volunteers to direct support to areas most in need.
- » **ArchCity Defenders** provided operational support for the resource hubs by donating staff to help from all tasks related to legal support to directing traffic.
- » **City of St. Louis Office of the Treasurer** managed the traffic safety at the resource hubs and ensured residents, staff, and volunteers were able to access the hubs safely.
- » **Diamond Diva Empowerment Foundation** served as the backbone in creating a system of securing the most immediate supply needs and delivering them to community-led resource hubs across North St. Louis. Diamond Diva showed up at all hours and days to fill the gap on essential needs like water, food, toiletries, hygiene products, and more to ensure residents had what they needed to survive the aftermath.
- » **Gateway Early Childhood Alliance** contributed operational support and supported youth and young people by donating funds for households impacted by the tornado to attend summer camps.
- » **FEMA** and the **Red Cross** coordinated with the **City of St. Louis** to operate fixed site locations at the Kingdom Church STL resource hub. The organizations provided resources to assist households with completing FEMA applications for individual assistance and additional financial assistance and housing resources through the Red Cross. The Red Cross also delivered supplies to the resource hubs.
- » **Key Strategic Group** assisted with securing supplies needed to operate a resource hub, contributed to strategic planning, and provided graphic design support.
- » **Kingdom Church STL** stepped in as a new site when the team needed to find a new location. The church's support of utilizing their space helped The People's Response to continue to support an area that had the least amount of support from the City.
- » **Meyers Okohson Political Consulting** led the canvassing efforts across North St. Louis to ensure residents who may not have reliable access to transportation, cellular service, and electricity were connected to resources.
- » **Missouri Organizing and Voter Engagement Collaborative (MOVE)** offered resources for volunteer management and communications to households via text and email.
- » **Ronald L. Jones Funeral Chapels** donated their parking lot to support the distribution of supplies while The People's Response operated at Kingdom Church STL.
- » **St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN)** established a referral process that connected Community Health Workers with residents facing urgent medical needs.

- » **The 314 Oasis** served as an important site for communal and collective space for rest, care, connection, and power at Fountain Park. **Dr. LJ Punch** is a leader in bridging the connection of love and medicine to be present for community and people.
- » **The Community Health Commission of Missouri (CHCM)** addressed behavioral health needs, which in turn worked with local behavioral health organizations to connect residents with resources.
- » **The O'Fallon Park Rec Center** offered support to operate from the YMCA parking lot and helped create the much needed essential foundation to operate a resource hub. Thank you to all the staff who accepted The People's Response team as a part of your team. The team is the reason why we could serve residents in need with resources.
- » **The Regional Response Team** provided on the ground support for the resource hub with partner coordination on behavioral health needs and data team support.
- » **University of Missouri-St. Louis Community Innovation and Action Center (CIAC)** for providing the data backbone for data analysis and mapping of the resident support intake form.

The team could not have operated the resource hubs without:

- » **Restaurant partners who donated to The People's Response to feed volunteers and staff.** The team is so grateful for your generous donations during our time operating the resource hubs. Your food fueled us to be able to continue the work to support the community.
- » **To all the people who donated supplies,** your donations were essential and critical to the operations of The People's Response. In the initial days when the government failed us, you did not. You showed up each day alongside our volunteers to ensure the resource hubs had supplies to meet the needs of impacted residents.

There are many other partners who helped support the resource hubs. From organizations and businesses who donated construction materials, everyday essential needs, and people, The People's Response team has a deep sense of gratitude for you all. From our forklift driver, Jeremy, to all our partners, thank you.

Photo by Tyler Small



To our community partners who filled the gap and continue to do so, all our organizations self-deployed even though the government directed us not to. *It is because of you that residents in North St. Louis are front and center in response and recovery.*

TPR IMPACT OVERVIEW

The People's Response (TPR) is grounded and grew from care, love, and community to ensure North St. Louis is prioritized in response, recovery, and rebuild. Action St. Louis and ForTheCultureSTL met at the O'Fallon Park Rec Center parking lot the evening of May 16 and stepped in the gap to fill it with resources, respect, and support for the north side and west side.

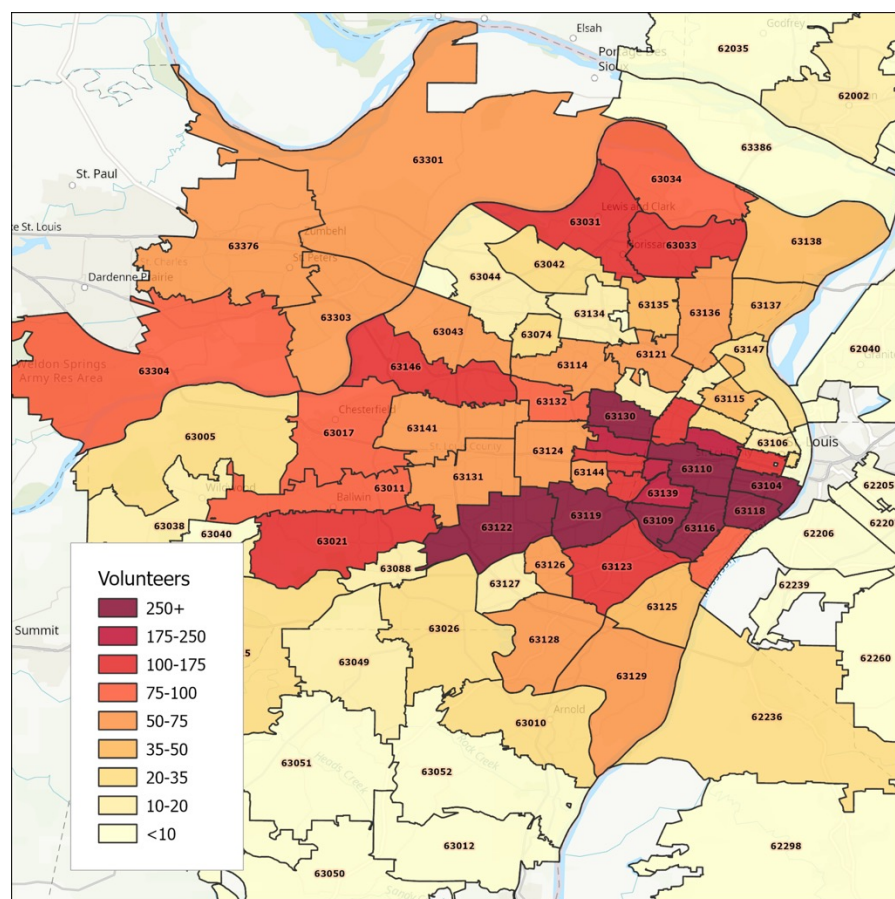
The People's Response is possible because of every volunteer, donor, staff, and supporters who believe centering those who are most impacted by the tornado is how we will create a just recovery.

Volunteer Impact

The People's Response Resource Hubs from May 17 to June 28 had 10,620 volunteers who averaged three hours per shift. The highest peak of volunteers was May 23 to 25 with over 1,000 volunteers each day. **There were 9,234 unique volunteers. Over 38,000 volunteer hours helped support the Resource Hubs.**

Volunteers were a crucial component to the response efforts as they served thousands of residents through meal service, supply pick up, relief dash, donation sorting, and clean up crews. Figure 3 is a map that shows volunteers came from all over the St. Louis region to support households and neighborhoods directly impacted by the tornado.

FIGURE 3: Volunteer Distribution by Zip Code



"I appreciated how easy it was to sign up and get all the information I needed to attend. The situation was extremely well organized. All the helpers were cheerful and willing to help. Lots of clear directions and helpful answers to questions were given the whole time."

- Volunteer

"Beautiful experience of care, compassion and unity. Lots of smiles, lots of care. It was a sweet spirit flowing throughout and I'm so grateful."

- Volunteer

"Felt very productive getting donation bags stuff. Was well organized. Appreciated food and drink for volunteers. Stayed almost 2 hours more because it was an event full of amazing and friendly St. Louisians."

- Volunteer

Donation Impact

From May 16 to June 28, more than 4,300 donations were made to Action St. Louis to support households directly impacted by the tornado. **Together, these contributions totaled over \$600,000**—a testament to the collective care, urgency, and solidarity shown by our community in a time of crisis.

We are deeply grateful for every act of support—whether it came through individual donations, grassroots fundraisers, mutual aid drives, or institutional gifts. Many people organized on our behalf without ever being asked, and many more gave without needing recognition.

On this page is a list of some —**but not all**— of the individuals, groups, and institutions that supported The People's Response. We share this list to lift up examples of the broad coalition that helped make our response possible, while holding deep gratitude for everyone who gave in any way, whether or not their name appears here.

Thank you for fueling this movement for recovery, dignity, and justice.

Institutional Support

Abortion Action Missouri
Athena
Black Voters Matter
Borealis
CWE Whole Foods
Deaconess Foundation
Empower Missouri
James S McDonnell Foundation
JF Maddox Foundation
Ikea
Know Your Rights Camp
Mid-America Transplant
Missouri Foundation for Health
Missouri Jobs with Justice
Missouri Workers Center
Movement for Black Lives
Needmor Foundations
Organizing Resilience
Planned Parenthood
PowerSwitch
Rio Vista Foundations
Roblee Foundation
SEIU HCII
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Louis Disaster Relief Fund
The Solution's Project
Trinity Church
United Way

Grassroot Donations

4 Hands Brewery
AFSCME SUB-CHAPTER 59
Blueprint Coffee
Butter Half Bakery
Camp Sacajawea - Girl Scouts South
City Sewing Room
Crown Candy
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - In honor of Adrienne Davis
Enlightened Tacos LLC
Fashion Show by Maxxine Roeder
Ivy Foundation of St. Louis
Little Fox
Metro Theater Company
Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis
Phi Tau Omega
Pizzahead
Playadors
Rebellion STL
Shawn Durham
The Mighty Pines
Tower Grove Pride
Zero Fatigue, Smino & Live Nation

\$600,000+
in total contributions collected



Photos by Tyler Small

RESIDENT DATA

Resident Support Intake Form

Action St. Louis and ForTheCultureSTL quickly mobilized supply resources and meals to support impacted households. By May 19, there were over 1,000 volunteers, over 300 debris clean up crews, over 700 meals distributed, and hundreds of households served with supplies. Action St. Louis began discussions with the University of Missouri-St. Louis Community Innovation and Action Center (CIAC) for a centralized resident support intake form to better understand the needs of impacted households and how to best offer support.

To further the impact, Action St. Louis coordinated with the City of St. Louis on May 19 on a data sharing agreement to streamline information gathered from residents to connect them to resources for response and recovery. The resident support intake form gathered information on household information, dwelling information, home damage and repair needs, housing and shelter needs, health and medical needs, and other needs. The intake form was created to provide immediate resources and hold the City of St. Louis and Mayor's Office accountable, so all impacted residents receive aid for recovery and rebuilding.

The resident support intake form was collected through an online link found on Action St. Louis's website, picking up supplies from The People's Response Resource Hubs, and canvassing. Other organizations and agencies also helped collect assessment data, such as the City of St. Louis, Spirit of St. Louis, and many more partners.

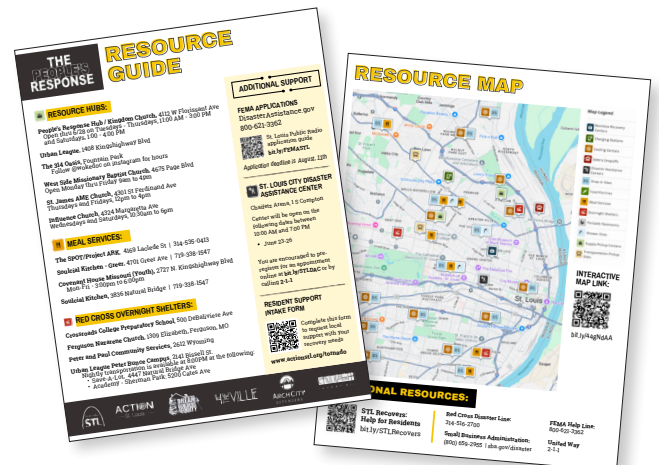
The required questions were first name, last name, phone number, address, the number of people who were/are living at the dwelling, and age ranges of people who were/are at the dwelling. All other questions on the survey were optional. The responses may vary per question based on the respondents desire to share the information.

The People's Response Outreach

The team collected over 10,000 intakes through the Resident Intake Support Form between May 19 to June 28. Action St. Louis and ForTheCultureSTL used several different communication outlets to share information to reach residents. The primary outlets were through social media such as Facebook and Instagram, local news, and canvassing.

MATERIALS

The People's Response quickly created flyers to update residents on resource hubs, meal services, cooling centers, city services, and FEMA assistance. These efforts filled critical gaps as the City of St. Louis was slow to communicate updates in a rapidly changing situation.

CANVASSING

The People's Response began canvassing less than a week after the tornado devastated homes and neighborhoods, determined to ensure North St. Louis would not be left behind in recovery efforts. In the immediate aftermath, North St. Louis neighborhoods were cut off from one another by uprooted trees, widespread power outages, and limited transportation options.

Action St. Louis launched its canvassing efforts on May 22, 2025, focusing first on Zone C, which includes neighborhoods north of Natural Bridge Avenue—O'Fallon, Penrose, College Hill, Fairground, and North Riverfront. The team canvassed Zone C twice to ensure residents were informed about available resources and The People's Response support hub. In total, canvassers visited 6,760 properties, directly engaging with 1,251 people and leaving resource flyers at 4,990 homes where no one was present.

To expand outreach, Action St. Louis conducted a canvassing training for community partners

on June 13, equipping them with processes and talking points to address common questions. That same week, the Spirit of St. Louis began canvassing in other tornado-impacted areas.

On June 10, FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance would be available to Missouri. Action St. Louis met with FEMA and the Mayor's Office on June 18 to discuss coordination and potential joint canvassing. While the teams initially agreed to canvas together, federal-level changes quickly shifted FEMA's role to coordination only with the City of St. Louis. By the last week of June, FEMA confirmed it would not participate in canvassing efforts.

Despite this, The People's Response, Spirit of St. Louis, and other community partners continued their outreach while awaiting guidance from the Mayor's Office on a new canvassing strategy. As of June 28, no city-led canvassing effort had been announced—leaving many impacted neighborhoods at risk of being overlooked, as town halls alone cannot adequately gather residents' input and assess needs.

*Photo by Lindy Drew,
Humans of St. Louis*



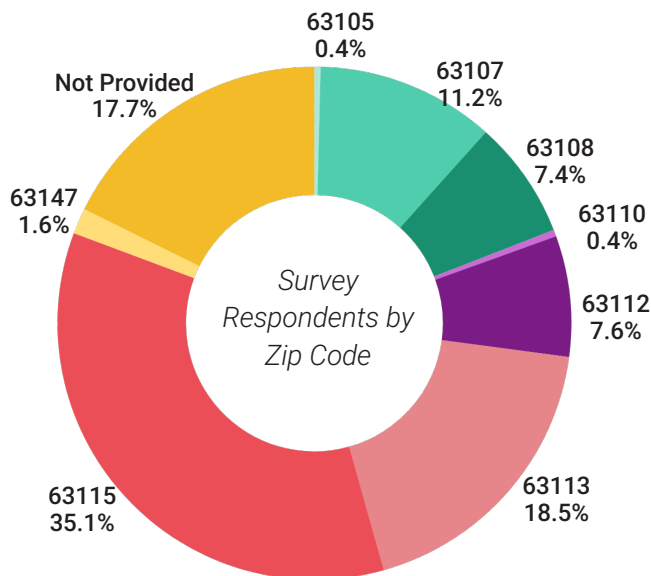
Data Summary

DATA RESPONSES

Action St. Louis partnered with the University of Missouri-St. Louis Community Innovation and Action Center (CIAC) to support data collection and analysis of the Resident Intake Support Form. The People's Response followed resident needs, as they shared through the intake form, as the primary guide for understanding which areas to direct resources, securing the most needed resources, and advocating for needs to be met by the City of St. Louis

The data summary is an aggregation of data residents shared with The People's Response, United Way 2-1-1, and community partners. The data summary is an analysis of information collected from May 19 to June 28.

The required questions were first name, last name, phone number, address, the number of people who were/are living at the dwelling, and age ranges of people who were/are at the dwelling. All other questions on the survey were optional. The responses may vary per question based on the respondents desire to share the information.



10,131
intake forms were completed with 7,205 from unique households. This represents 21,097 people in the total households.

Of the 5,737 households who provided confirmed city addresses, 83% report living north of Delmar Boulevard—a historic dividing line that reflects stark disparities in life expectancy, income, and homeownership. Most neighborhoods in North St. Louis are predominantly Black. In 2014, For the Sake of All reported an 18-year gap in life expectancy between North City and Clayton. The recent tornado, coupled with households expressing urgent needs for support, has further exacerbated these long-standing inequities for Black neighborhoods in North St. Louis.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the 7205 households, 6590 provided resident ages. Of those responded:

43%
Households with someone 60+

74%
Households with adults 18-59

38%
Households with children 6-17

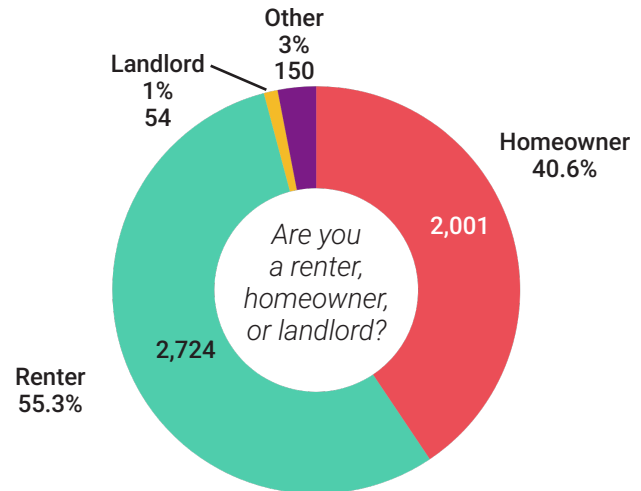
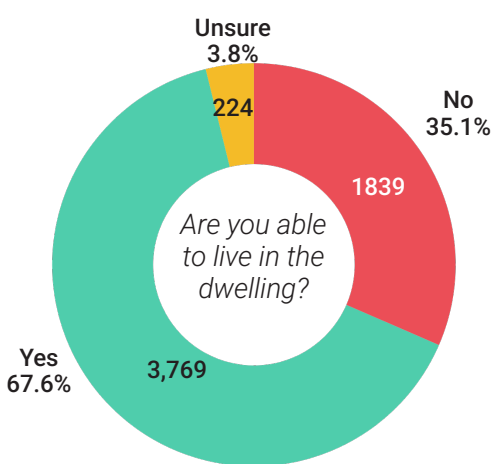
24%
Households with children under 5

4781 indicated whether or not someone in the household has a disability. Of those responded:

47%
Households have someone with a disability

HOUSING

Thirty-two percent of households reported being unable to live in their homes due to tornado damage, with 55 percent of these households being renters and 41 percent homeowners. Yet, the City of St. Louis lacks a comprehensive system to track whether these displaced families have found safe housing or are still forced to stay in damaged residences, leaving critical gaps in understanding the full scope of recovery needs.



It is deeply concerning that only 14 percent of renters and 42 percent of homeowners reported having insurance when the tornado struck. For many Black households—already more than twice as likely as White households to face severe rent burdens—this lack of coverage means starting recovery with even fewer resources. The ZIP codes hit hardest by the tornado are also among those with the highest poverty rates, compounding the challenges these families now face.

14%

Renters with insurance

2,086 without insurance

69%

Renters contacted by landlords post-storm

732 not contacted by landlord

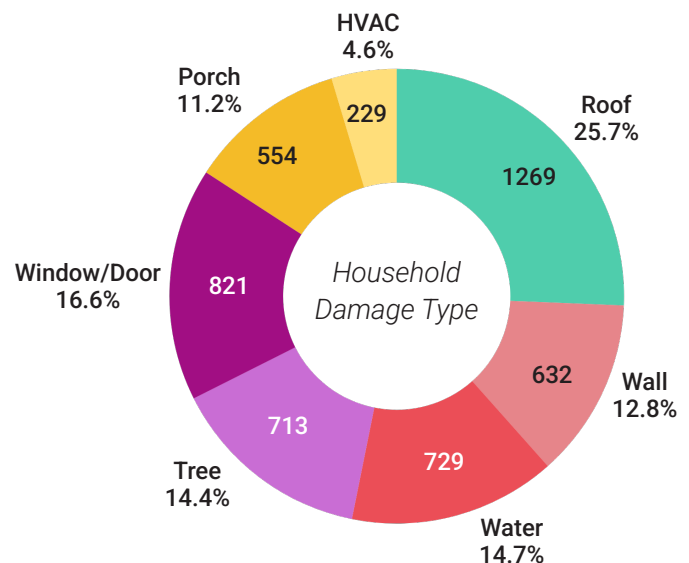
42%

Homeowners with insurance

1,052 without insurance

HOUSEHOLD DAMAGE

Nearly half of Americans, 47 percent, say they could not manage an unexpected \$500 expense without worry. Among the lowest-income families, only one-third have a savings account, and the typical balance is just \$1,010. This financial instability has made recovering from the tornado even more daunting. Households reported widespread damage, with roof destruction being the most common, followed by broken windows and doors, wall damage, water intrusion, and downed trees—costs that far exceed what most families can afford to repair on their own.



AREAS OF NEED

The People's Response assessed five areas of need for residents impacted by the tornado. Each of the needs are essential in order to survive and stay in place. A total of 7205 households responded sharing the following needs:

4,331

FOOD & SUPPLIES

Households needing food and/or supplies, including drop off

2,403

HOUSING & SHELTER

Households needing shelter, housing, or utility assistance

4,323

HOME REPAIR & STABILIZATION

Households needing tarping, boarding, and other stabilization or home repair support

1,741

DEBRIS CLEAN UP

Households needing help with property clean up

1,131

HEALTH

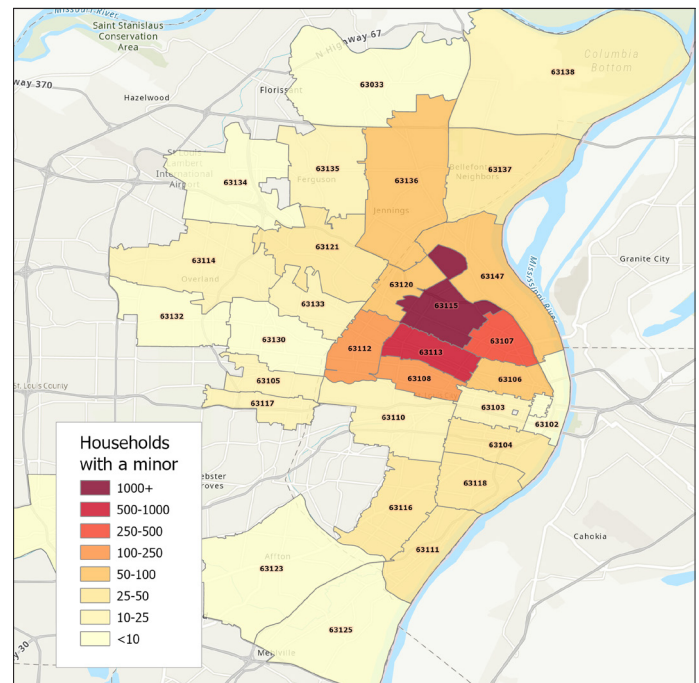
Households needing prescription or other health assistance (including mental health)

Priority Populations

HOUSEHOLDS WITH A MINOR

A report by Cordogan, Clark & Associates, presented to the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) Board of Education on July 22, 2025, outlines findings from a two-year survey of the district. The City of St. Louis is projected to lose 7 percent of its population between 2022 and 2034, while SLPS student enrollment is expected to drop by 30 percent over the next decade. The tornado may accelerate this decline, particularly in North St. Louis, where many families were already struggling with economic and housing instability. The report warns that natural disasters can drive permanent migration, citing post-Katrina New Orleans as an example, where many students never returned. Students whose homes or schools were damaged are at heightened risk of leaving the SLPS district.

FIGURE 4: Households With a Minor



A total of 3,013 households shared with The People’s Response that they have children ages 17 and under who were impacted by the tornado (see Figure 4). Of these, 1,600 households have children under age 5, and 2,483 households have children ages 6 to 17. Nearly 40 percent of these families may face housing instability, potentially forcing them to look outside the city for new housing and schools. This is particularly concerning as 12 SLPS schools were impacted by the tornado, collectively serving 2,990 students. While 5 schools are set to reopen this fall, 7 sustained severe damage and face longer recovery timelines.

»

2,990

SLPS STUDENTS
AFFECTED BY
IMPACTED SCHOOLS

AREAS OF NEED FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINOR CHILDREN	1,600 Households with children age 0-5	2,483 Households with children age 6-17	3,013 Households with children age 0-17
FOOD & SUPPLIES	1,048	1,624	1,937
HOUSING & SHELTER	535	799	967
HOME REPAIR & STABILIZATION	866	1,408	1,699
DEBRIS CLEAN UP	268	473	555
HEALTH	264	380	449

Photo by Tyler Small



HOUSEHOLDS AGE 60+

AARP's research shows that disasters disproportionately impact older adults, many of whom lack the financial security to prepare or recover. In 2019, the median income for adults aged 65 and older was just \$27,398, with 12 percent earning less than \$10,000 annually. More than half of Americans over 50 have no emergency savings, making it difficult to stock up on food, pay for costly prescriptions, or invest in home improvements that could reduce disaster risks. The report also warns that older residents are frequently targeted by scams and fraudulent contractors in the aftermath of crises, underscoring the urgent need for communities to address these vulnerabilities.

A total of 2,830 households reported to The People's Response that they had adults aged 60 or older (see Figure 5). Nearly 40 percent of these households are at risk of not having enough financial resources to repair their homes or rebuild their lives. Without sufficient support, these challenges may lead to long-term negative physical and mental health outcomes for older adults.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABILITIES

The Harvard Law School Project on Disability found that people with disabilities are two to four times more likely to die or be injured during climate-related emergencies such as heatwaves, hurricanes, and floods. They also face additional barriers during disasters, including inaccessible transportation and emergency shelters, heightened social isolation, and a greater risk of institutionalization.

A total of 2,247 households reported to The People's Response that they include a person with a disability (see Figure 6). About 30 percent of these households are at heightened risk, underscoring the urgent need for swift, inclusive disaster response efforts that prioritize accessibility and safety for people with disabilities.

FIGURE 5: Households With Adults Age 60+

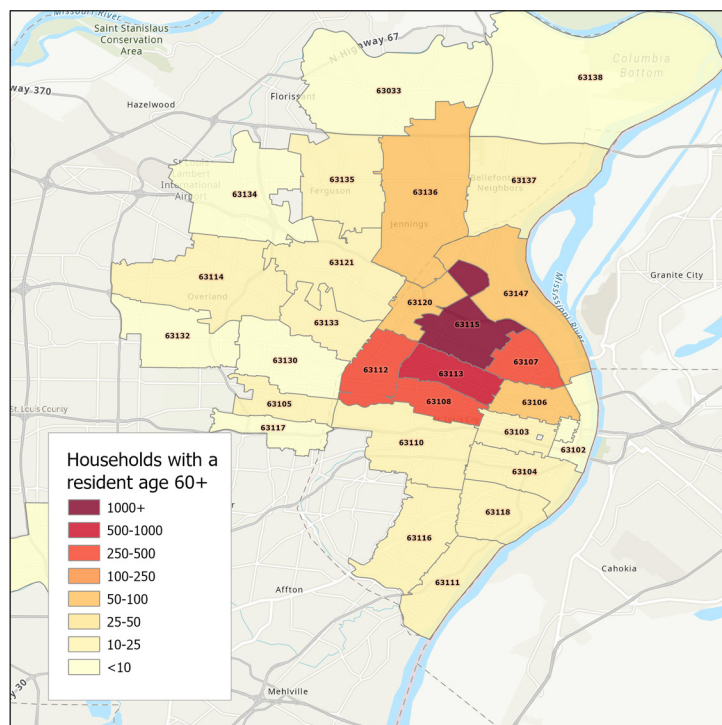
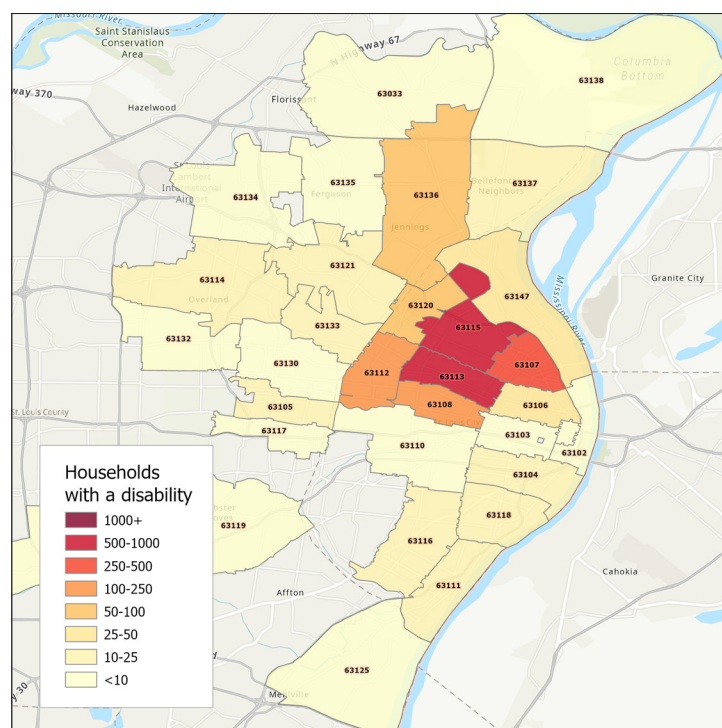


FIGURE 6: Households With a Disability



AREAS OF NEED FOR
HOUSEHOLDS WITH
SENIORS AND DISABILITIES

2,830
Households with
Adults Age 60+

2,247
Households with
a Disability

FOOD & SUPPLIES	1,643	1,549
HOUSING & SHELTER	697	768
HOME REPAIR & STABILIZATION	1,746	1,365
DEBRIS CLEAN UP	622	539
HEALTH	412	549

Photo by Tyler Small



What We’ve Learned and What We Advise

The People’s Response intake support form is the people’s data and this data should be used as a tool to ensure those who need support receive it. Sustained, long-term recovery must be led and resourced by city and state institutions—with accountability to the people most impacted. Yet

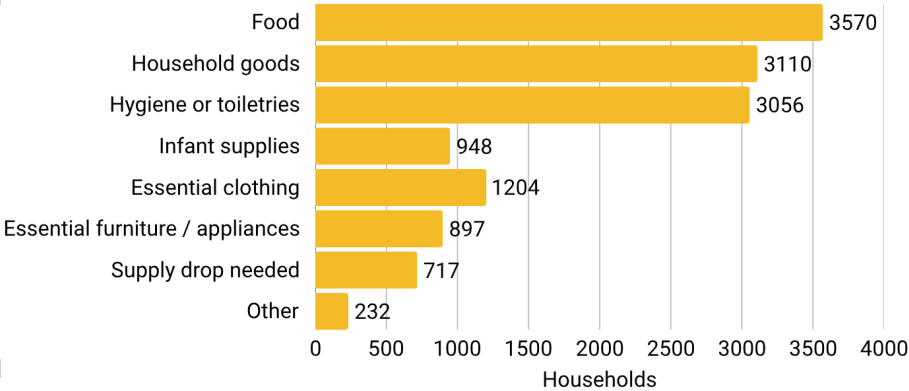
many critical needs in North St. Louis remain unmet, and with each passing day, the opportunity for families to fully recover and rebuild grows smaller, widening the gap toward long-term stability. The path to recovery is narrowing each day—city leaders must step up, prioritizing the hardest-hit neighborhoods to ensure families can rebuild their lives with dignity.

FOOD & SUPPLIES

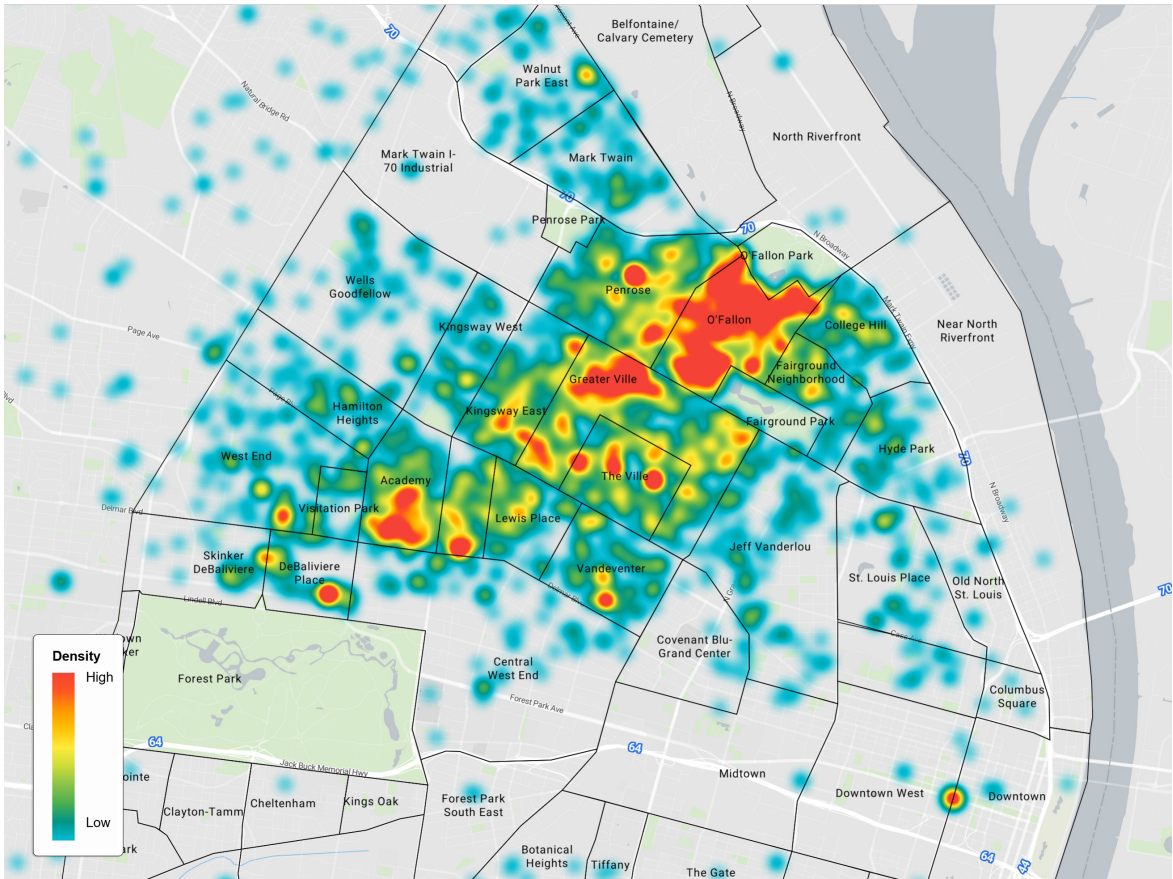
The Need

4,331

Total households expressed a food or supplies need



The Geography of Need



The Work

Over six weeks, The People's Response fulfilled over 3,000 resident supply pick ups at the O'Fallon Park Recreation Center and Kingdom Church STL, along with completing more than 5,000 Relief Dash supply deliveries. This supported the supply needs of 4,331 unique households. The People's Response provided water, food, cleaning products, hygiene supplies, and other essentials for residents.

To meet these needs, resource hubs served as distribution centers for essential supplies while also accepting donations. The People's Response launched Relief Dash, a delivery program designed to ensure households without transportation—or those unable to visit a hub during open hours—could still access critical resources. The People's Response Resource Hubs did not accept clothing or furniture donations; instead, residents requesting those items were referred to other hubs that could meet those needs.

Relief Dash

Relief Dash was created to meet people where they are, recognizing that many residents were not only displaced or dealing with home damage but also had their transportation disrupted. This responsive model of care delivered emergency supplies directly to households and ensured that more than 5,000 food and supply requests were fulfilled. Every single food and supply need reported to The People's Response was addressed and closed.

Recommendation

The City of St. Louis must provide direct funding and resource support for grassroots hubs and volunteer networks.

Many of the organizations relied solely on their own reserves, purchasing and distributing supplies out of pocket to meet urgent community needs. Even after gaining access to the City's central warehouse on June 12, the process remained unreliable, with key supplies often missing or in short supply. During a dangerous June heat wave, the City warehouse ran out of water entirely, and community groups like Diamond Diva stepped in to fill the gap. Equitable disaster recovery requires the City to invest directly in the grassroots networks that are already on the front lines.

The Mayor's Office has yet to confirm whether funding will be available to reimburse community organizations that supported resource hubs. These organizations stepped in when the government was not prepared to provide direct resources, acting in good faith with the expectation that the City would honor its role as a partner. However, after announcing Rams funding priorities, the City admitted it still does not know how—or if—it will reimburse these nonprofits. As a result, many organizations are now being forced to make difficult financial decisions, adjusting their business plans and operations amid ongoing uncertainty. ***The City must act immediately to reimburse and fund these frontline organizations, or risk undermining the very community networks that have proven essential to disaster response and recovery.***

Photo by Tyler Small



DEBRIS CLEAN UP

The Need

1,741

*Total households
expressed debris
removal need*

The President's Office of the Board of Aldermen released a Crisis Cleanup Outcome Report in July 2025, which reviewed data collected by members to assess tornado damage and catalog the

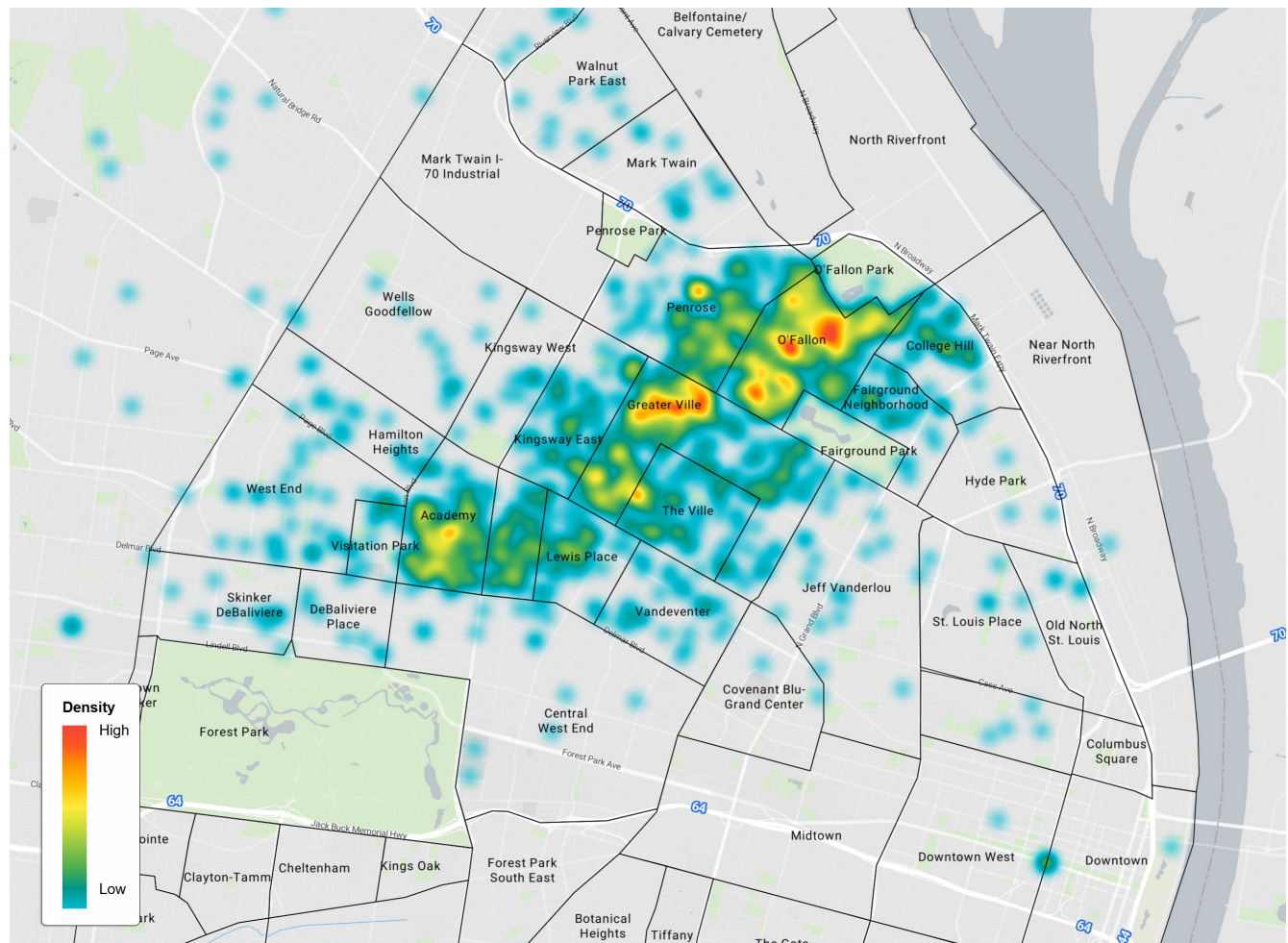
work needed across St. Louis City with a coalition. The coalition assessed tornado damage and found 1,993 properties assessed between May 18 to June, 2025 with 558 being characterized as "High Priority".

On average, a property had two types of tornado damage reported. The types of damage assessed by the Crisis Cleanup Coalition included damage to trees, roofing damage, exterior and interior building damage, damage to interior personal

property, and whether there was debris on the property.

The most common reports of damage include hazardous trees on 1,311 properties, across 66 percent of properties assessed, debris on 53 percent of properties, and tarping needed (for damaged roofs) on 42 percent of damaged properties. The coalition also assessed 476 properties as having buildings in need of significant repairs ("rebuild") or likely candidates for complete demolition.

The Geography of Need



The Work

The People's Response quickly mobilized volunteer crews to remove debris from streets, sidewalks, and priority households. The team recognized early on that rapid debris removal was critical—helping reconnect neighborhoods cut off from one another and, in some cases, proving life-saving during disaster response. Volunteers were trained on communication with residents, safety protocols, and expectations before being deployed to impacted neighborhoods across North St. Louis. More than 3,000 volunteer crews joined The People's Response to clear debris.

While the team focused on grassroots debris removal, a resident intake form was created to further assess cleanup needs alongside reports such as Crisis Cleanup. Through the intake form, 1,741 households reported debris cleanup needs, most commonly involving the removal of trees, limbs, and roofing materials from residential streets, alleyways, and private property.

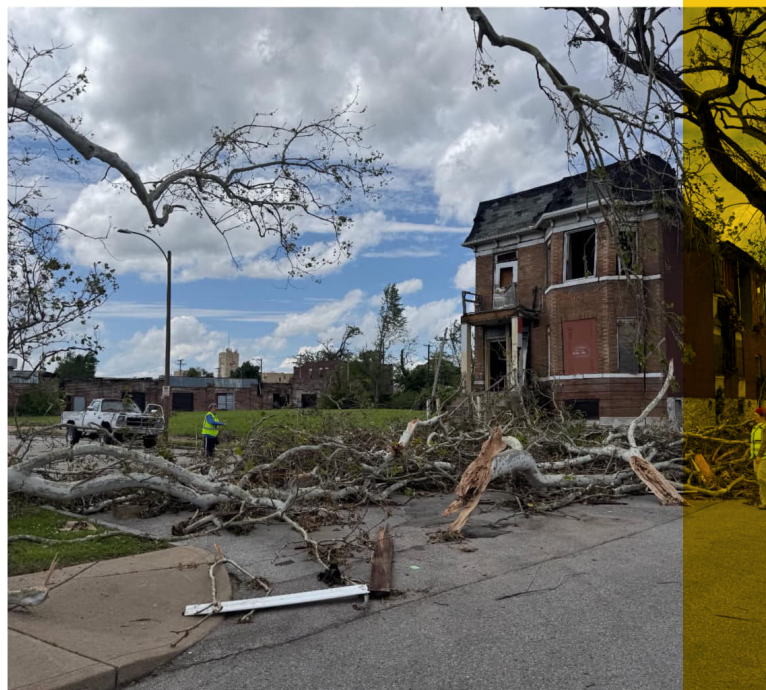
Recommendation

The City of St. Louis must address unclaimed debris clean up requests in Crisis Cleanup and the resident intake form.

As of July 1, 2025, 63.5 percent of reported damage remains unaddressed. This means 1,260 properties still have open cases from Crisis Cleanup. The report noted that the tornado damage is concentrated in Wards 10, 11, and 12, with Ward 12 experiencing the most damage—particularly tree-related destruction. In comparison, Wards 9, 13, and 14 reported far fewer instances of damage. ***Swift action is needed to clear this backlog, ensuring residents can return to safe, stable homes and that neighborhoods are not left to face the long-term consequences of inaction.***

The People's Response recognizes that this report is limited, with likely underreporting and additional analysis needed to fully understand the true impact. This should be taken into account when further assessing community needs.

Before debris removal



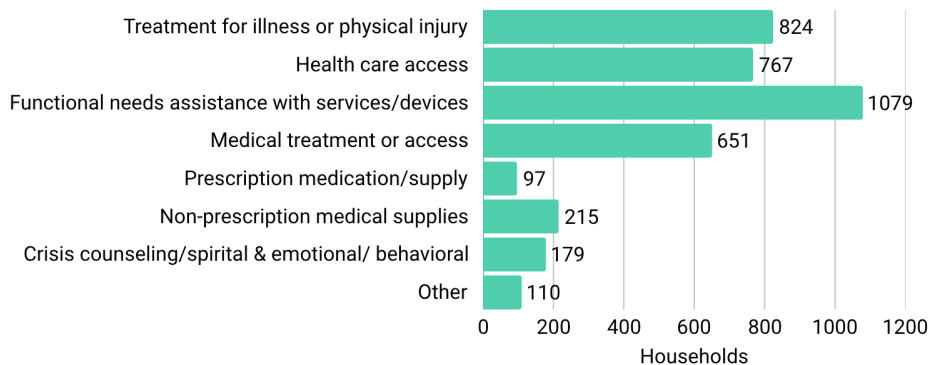
After debris removal

HEALTH

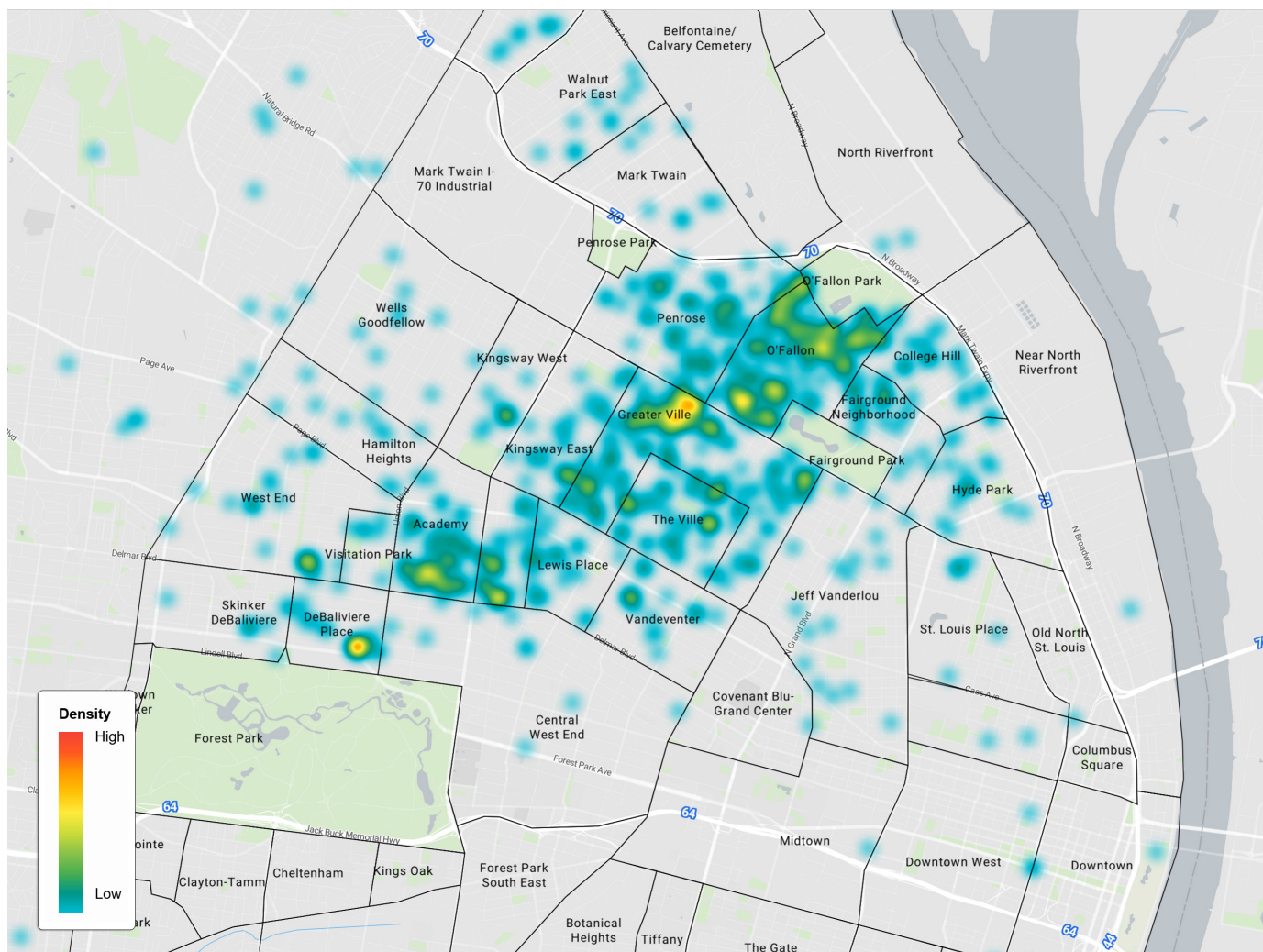
The Need

1,131

Total households
expressed health
related needs



The Geography of Need



The Work

Residents shared health needs ranging from prescription medications to functional support to counseling services to non-prescription supplies. A total of 1,133 households indicated some type of health-related need, including replacing prescription drugs, oxygen tanks, and accessing behavioral health services.

Action St. Louis partnered with the St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN) to establish a referral process that connected Community Health Workers with residents facing urgent medical needs. IHN collaborated with Rx Outreach, GreaterHealth Pharmacy & Wellness, and Federally Qualified Health Centers to provide additional support. Action St. Louis also partnered with the Community Health Commission of Missouri (CHCM) for behavioral health needs, which in turn worked with local behavioral health organizations to connect residents with resources.

Recommendation

The City of St. Louis needs to fund departments and organizations who are providing medical and behavioral health support.

Community partners are contributing in-kind services and relying on their own limited resources to assist residents in need. The full health consequences of the tornado remain unknown, as many residents continue to be exposed to asbestos and other harmful particles while trying to save their homes. The long-term physical and mental health impacts will take time to fully understand. ***The City must act now by increasing funding for the Department of Health's Behavioral Health Bureau and supporting organizations that can assess needs and respond with comprehensive systems of care.***

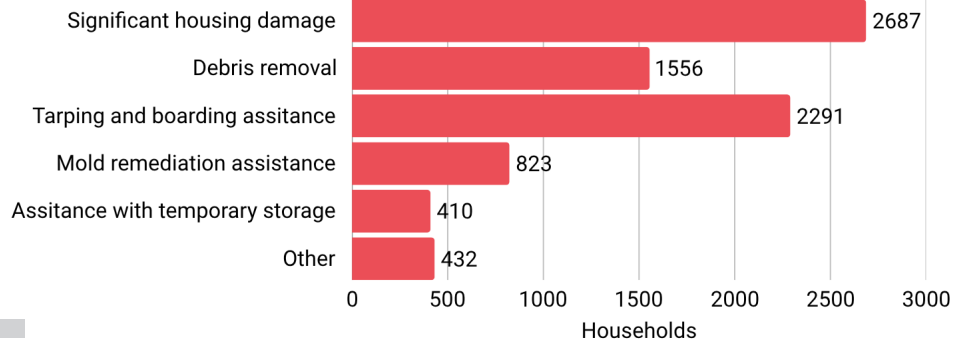


HOME DAMAGE & REPAIR

The Need

4,323

Total households expressed damage and repair needs



The Geography of Need

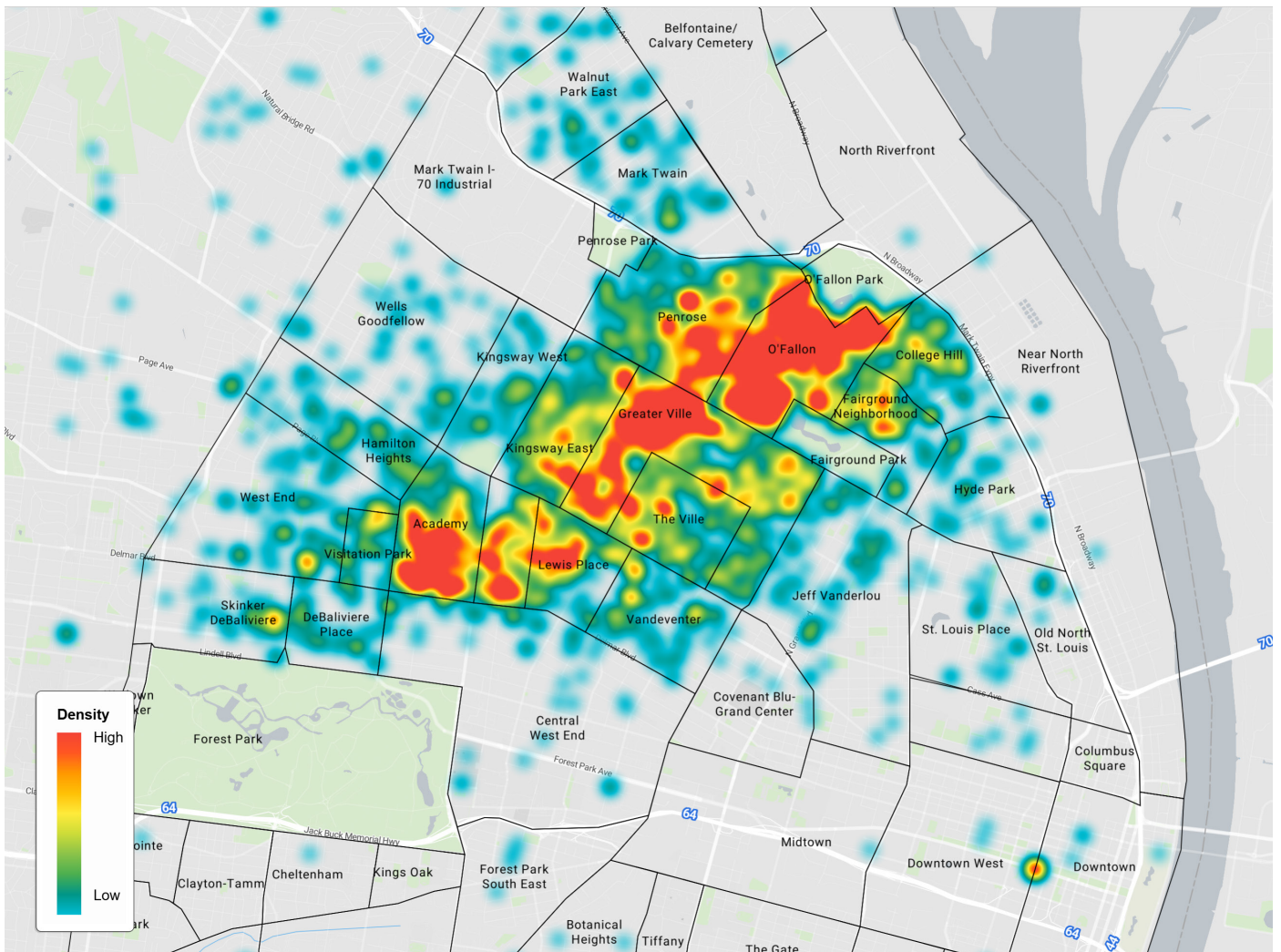
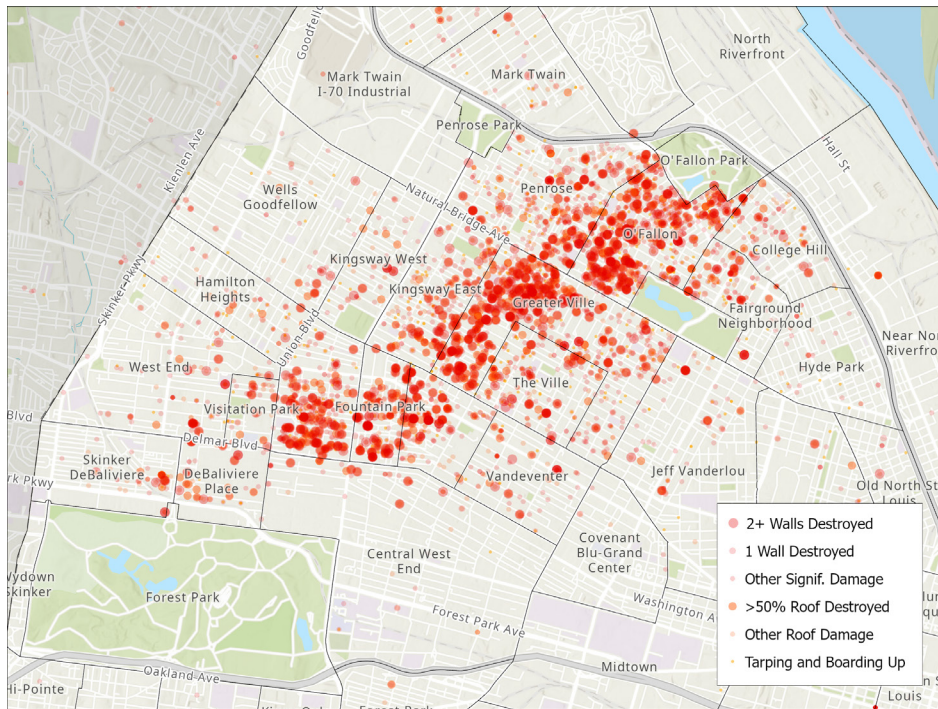


FIGURE 7: Self-Reported Damage



The Work

4,323 households reported a need for home repair and stabilization. Of these, more than 2,600 sustained significant housing damage, 1,550 required debris removal, 820 needed mold remediation, and 410 needed assistance with temporary storage. More than 1,000 households reported at least one wall destroyed (see Figure 7).

When the tornado devastated North St. Louis neighborhoods, The People's Response partnered with 4theVille, Invest STL, and Dream Builders 4 Equity to create a referral system addressing stabilization needs. While government agencies focused on building formal systems, community-based organizations mobilized quickly to deliver immediate support. This collaboration resulted in 301 completed

stabilizations. However, nearly 1,900 households remain without confirmed stabilization, leaving homes vulnerable to worsening damage with every passing day. Without urgent action, many of these homes may become uninhabitable, deepening displacement and long-term community loss.

Recommendations

The City of St. Louis must expand their building stabilization efforts.

From May 16 to June 6, resource hubs filled the gap by providing materials and coordinating volunteer contractors. After the closure of the 4theVille Emergency Hub, many residents had nowhere to turn for stabilization support. The City of St. Louis did not launch its emergency recovery programs, including stabilization efforts, until July 1—leaving homes

to deteriorate further during the delay. ***The City must act swiftly to correct this slow response and bring additional contractors on board to stabilize homes before more are lost.***

The City of St. Louis must clearly communicate a home repair process for tornado-impacted households.

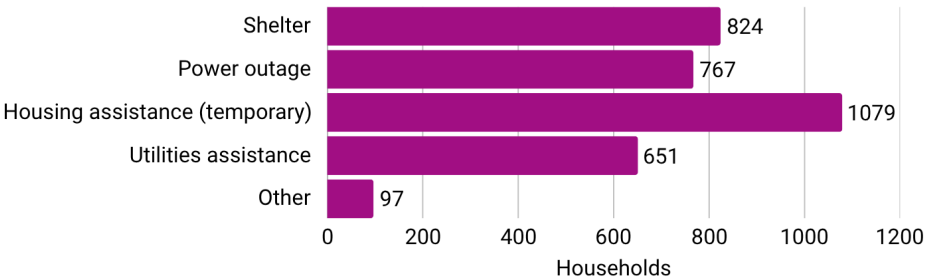
The City has yet to provide a clear guidance on home repair improvements or how it will address critical health hazards such as mold remediation. Mold and fungus continue to grow in damaged homes, causing health issues like coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and chest pain. ***The City must act now to prioritize transparent repair plans and mold remediation, or risk allowing long-term health consequences and further displacement in North St. Louis.***

HOUSING & SHELTER

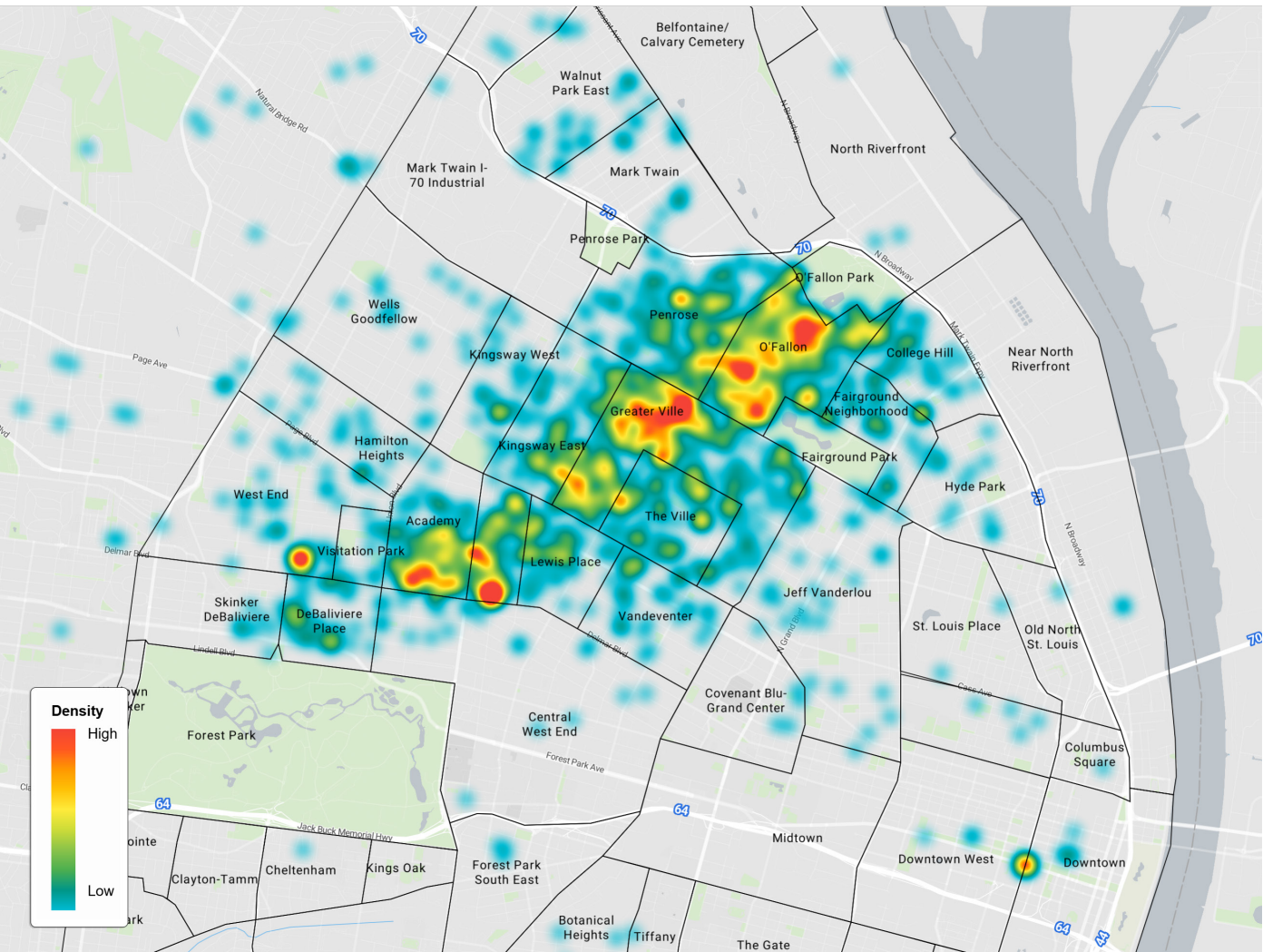
The Need

2,403

Total households expressed housing and shelter needs



The Geography of Need



The Work

A third of households report being unable to live in their homes and in need of alternative shelter or housing. More than 1,000 residents shared that they require some form of housing assistance.

In total, 2,403 households reported housing and shelter needs, including emergency shelter, temporary housing, utility disruption, and rental or utility assistance. The City of St. Louis has formed an internal housing committee to triage the most urgent cases, while the St. Louis Housing Authority has hosted two housing fairs to connect renters with landlords. The Red Cross also operated emergency shelters, which closed on July 11.

Despite these efforts, there is no streamlined system for residents impacted by the tornado to

access shelter, temporary housing, home repair, or general housing support. Impacted residents are directed to apply for FEMA assistance because the Mayor's Office is prioritizing FEMA reimbursements rather than adopting a both/and approach to ensure all available resources are utilized. FEMA assistance alone will not cover the full scope of housing needs for impacted families.

Recommendation

The City of St. Louis needs to develop a housing plan that includes short, medium, and long term solutions.

Mayor Cara Spencer has stated, "We want to keep everybody here in St. Louis and I want my record to be tied to how we keep people here." To achieve this goal, the City must make real investments in housing solutions.

The current lack of response shows that housing recovery is not being treated as a priority. Homes that were initially tagged yellow (limited damage) are now becoming red, meaning they are unlivable, forcing families to decide whether they can remain or must relocate. Since day one, the Mayor's Office has focused more on messaging than action, signaling that the administration is less concerned with which families return to these homes and more focused on maintaining the appearance of keeping people in the city. ***Without decisive action and real investment in housing recovery, the City risks losing the very residents it claims to prioritize.***



UNCLAIMED NEEDS

While these efforts filled critical gaps in the immediate aftermath of the tornado, the data makes one fact clear: the scale of remaining needs far exceeds the capacity of community organizations alone. This section provides a snapshot of unclaimed needs, underscoring the urgent work that still lies ahead to stabilize families and neighborhoods.

From the efforts of The People's Response, 100 percent of food and supply needs were met, serving 4,331 unique households through both resource hub pickups and Relief Dash deliveries. This was accomplished despite limited support and resource navigation from the City of St. Louis. While this achievement underscores the power of grassroots action, other critical needs remain severely under-addressed.

Health needs have only been met at 55 percent, even with the support of referral partners, leaving hundreds of residents without access to essential medical care, prescription refills, and behavioral health services necessary for recovery.

The situation is even more distressing for debris cleanup, home repair and stabilization, and housing and shelter. Despite tireless community-led efforts, only 38 percent of all reported

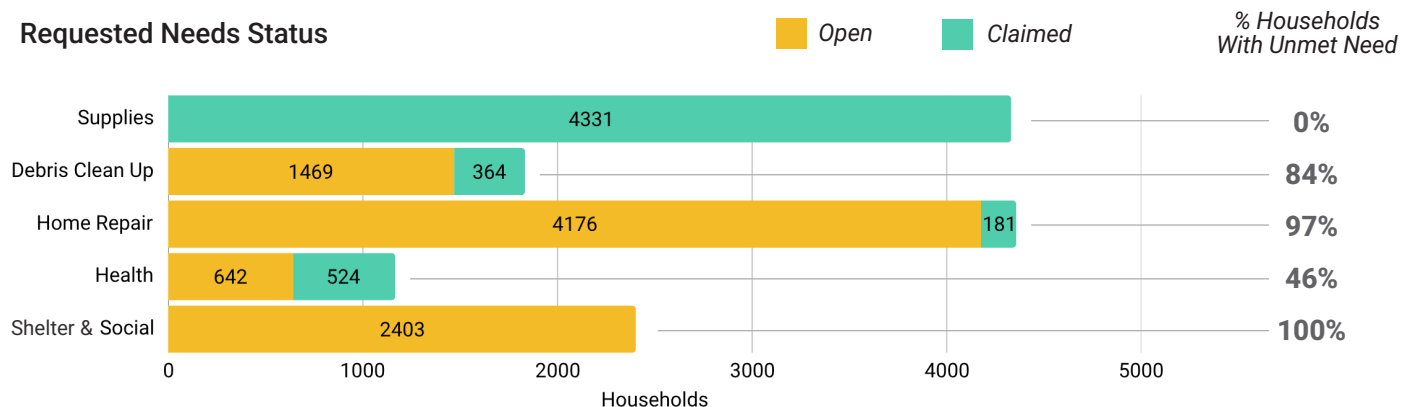
needs have been claimed and addressed. This means that families remain surrounded by hazardous debris, living in unstable or unsafe homes, or are without shelter altogether.

In total, **17,602 needs were reported through the resident intake form. Of these, 62 percent remain unclaimed.** The most urgent gaps are:

- » **Debris Clean Up:** 82 percent of reported needs require follow up, affecting 1,469 households
- » **Home Repair & Stabilization:** 95 percent of needs remain unfulfilled, affecting 4,176 households
- » **Housing & Shelter:** 100 percent of reported needs, 2,403 households, remain unmet
- » **Health & Medical:** 45 percent of reported needs remain unresolved, affecting 524 households

Recovery in North St. Louis is at risk as unmet needs mount and city support lags. Homes once deemed repairable are deteriorating into unlivable conditions, pushing families toward displacement.

Requested Needs Status



This level of unmet need is unacceptable and demands urgent action.

Community organizations have stepped in where government systems have failed, but their capacity is not limitless. The city needs to invest in a housing recovery, debris clean up, and health plan that supports the long term recovery of neighborhoods impacted by the tornado. Every unclaimed need represents a family at risk of losing not just their home, but their stability and connection to St. Louis. City leadership must close this gap immediately, partnering with and investing in the grassroots networks that have already proven their effectiveness in protecting residents and rebuilding community resilience.

» **8,690**
households with unclaimed needs



MOVING FORWARD

North St. Louis has long been a site of systemic neglect, policy-driven disinvestment, and targeted abandonment—conditions intentionally created through decades of redlining, urban renewal, and state-sanctioned extraction of wealth from Black communities. The May 16 tornado devastated already vulnerable neighborhoods, compounding these historic harms. While mutual aid and grassroots response efforts emerged quickly, formal disaster systems have been slow to act—leaving many Black residents without the support they need to recover and continuing the long cycle of harm.

This moment is not just about relief—it's about power. Without intentional, resident-led organizing, North St. Louis is at risk of predatory redevelopment, land grabs, and displacement disguised as recovery.

The People's Response was born out of this urgency, built by and for the community to ensure North St. Louis can recover with dignity. In just six weeks, from May 16 to June 28, over 10,000 volunteers

THIS EFFORT DEMONSTRATES WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN COMMUNITIES LEAD THEIR OWN RECOVERY.

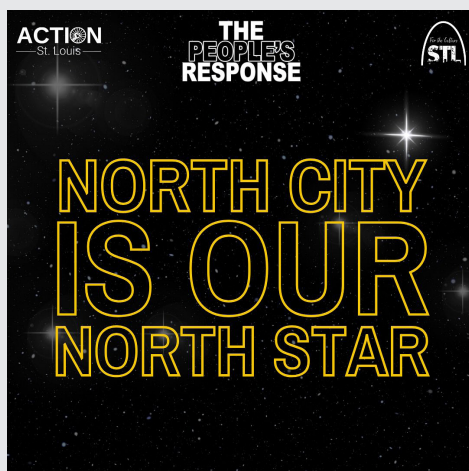
stepped forward, supporting more than 7,000 unique households. Together, they cleared debris with over 3,000 volunteers, delivered more than 5,000 supply packages through Relief Dash, supported over 3,000 households with in-person supply pickups, and served more than 21,000 meals. This effort demonstrates what is possible when communities lead their own recovery. To truly rebuild, the City of St. Louis must invest in community-led recovery efforts that honor the resilience of North St. Louis and create a foundation for long-term equity and healing.

Advancing Our Work

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE FELLOWSHIP

The People's Response Fellowship is a six month, paid (\$5,000) leadership and organizing program for residents of neighborhoods impacted by the May 16, 2025, tornado. The program equips fellows with political education, grassroots organizing skills,

ADVANCING THE WORK



and the tools to lead long-term recovery efforts and advocate for equitable investment in their communities. The fellows will help lead and shape the next phase of The People's Response.

NORTHSIDE RESILIENCE FUND

The Northside Resilience Fund, administered by Invest STL, provides direct cash assistance to families in North St. Louis who were severely impacted by the May 16 tornado. Through the generosity of donors to Action St. Louis and The People's Response, \$400,000 was contributed to the fund to ensure that impacted residents have the resources they need to begin rebuilding their lives with dignity and autonomy.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Action St. Louis remains committed to going door-to-door, ensuring that residents feel supported and connected to the resources they need. With FEMA individual assistance applications closing on August 11, the organization is prioritizing outreach so that every impacted household has the information and guidance necessary to access available aid.

ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY

In addition to direct relief, The People's Response is building political power by organizing residents and advocating for a just recovery. Action St. Louis is focused on preventing displacement, pushing for public investment in affordable housing and infrastructure, and holding city leadership accountable for an equitable response. Fellows, organizers, and volunteers are engaging residents in political education, attending city meetings, shaping policy demands, and amplifying the voices of those often excluded from decision-making. This work ensures that recovery is not just about rebuilding structures—but about transforming systems to serve our communities more justly.

Strategic Transition

The resource hubs were more than emergency operations - they were the result of years of community organizing the foundation of long-term infrastructure rooted in Black leadership. As organizations, The People's Response built the relationships, trust, and systems necessary to respond in moments of crisis.

Phase 1 of The People's Response centered on immediate relief and stabilization, ensuring that families had what they needed in the wake of disaster. Now, as it transitions into Phase 2, the focus is shifting from rapid relief to strategic recovery—grounded in community power, equity, and systemic change. This next phase continues the delivery of material aid while launching deeper community assessments and building the foundation for long-term investment, neighborhood control, and self-determination.

The journey forward begins with a comprehensive community assessment strategy designed to identify unmet needs, reconnect with impacted households, and empower residents to lead the recovery of their own neighborhoods. Through door-to-door canvassing, surveys, and public education, The People's Response is ensuring that North St. Louis residents are not only supported but equipped to shape the future they deserve.

City and state leaders need to continue to invest in community-driven solutions, follow the direction of community leaders who have already demonstrated how to rebuild with dignity and equity, and follow through on their commitments.



Photo by Tyler Small

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All data, charts, maps, and visualizations were developed in partnership with UMSL's Community Innovation and Action Center based on intake data from The People's Response (which also incorporated 211 and City data) that was collected during tornado response efforts.

APPENDIX

STL Tornado Resident Support Form

ACTION
—St. Louis—



Data collected in this survey is securely stored and will only be used to coordinate tornado response activities between the City of St. Louis, Action St. Louis, and other trusted community-based organizations.

Resident Information (* required)

First name* _____

Middle name _____

Last name* _____

Preferred name _____

Contact Information (* required)

Current phone #* _____

Email address _____

Staying somewhere else? Best way to reach you?

Alternative phone # and other contact info

Household Information

people who were living in damaged home?

Circle ages of occupants:

Age 0-5 Age 6-17 Age 18-59 Age 60+

If Ages 0-17, what school/childcare do they attend?

Anyone in the household have a disability?

Yes No

If yes, what type of disability?

What are the ages of those with a disability?

Age 0-5 Age 6-17 Age 18-59 Age 60+

Damaged Dwelling Information (* required)

Address* _____

Zip Code* _____

Are you able to live in the dwelling now?

Yes No Unsure

Are you a renter, home owner, or landlord?

Renter Homeowner Landlord Other

If other, describe:

For Homeowners:

Do you have homeowners insurance?

Yes No Unsure

Who is your homeowners insurance provider?

Have you contacted your insurance? Yes No

If yes, what did your insurance say?

For Renters:

Has your landlord contacted you? Yes No

Do you have renters insurance? Yes No

Who is your insurance provider?

Have you contacted your insurance? Yes No

If yes, what did your insurance say?

Supports Needed

Home Damage and Repair Needs:

Housing and Shelter Needs:

Food and Supply Needs:

Health and Medical Needs:

Additional Needs:

Does you need urgent follow up if possible?

Yes No Unsure

If yes, what is most urgent?

Any other information you want to share?



← fill out online! (preferred)

Email
response@actionstl.org or
call 211 for additional help.

Additional Property Details:

Type of structure:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Single Family | ☐ Mobile Home |
| ☐ Multi-family structure
(apartment, duplex, etc) | ☐ Business |

of stories for home/structure: _____

What type of damage did the tornado cause?:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Fallen trees/limbs | ☐ Interior water damage |
| ☐ Roof damage | ☐ Window/door damage |
| ☐ Porch damage | ☐ HVAC damage |
| ☐ Wall damage | |

List any other structural damage details below:

Are any power lines physically down on the property?:

Yes No

Do you have utilities that aren't working?

Yes No | If yes, what?

Do you have damage to personal property?

Yes No | If yes, what?

Do you need a temporary storage unit?

Yes No

Has this property been inspected for damage?

Yes No Unknown Not yet, but scheduled

If yes, who inspected / will inspect for damage?

Does the person providing this information give consent for it to be shared with other organizations solely for the purpose of providing support /assistance after the May 16th tornado? (*required)

Yes No

Canvasser/Outreach Details

Name: _____

Contact #: _____ Org: _____

page 2 of 2



STORM RECOVERY CHECKLIST

SHELTER & HOUSING ASSISTANCE

For All

- ☐ Register with FEMA for financial and housing assistance.
- ☐ Check for local housing programs, community shelters, or housing vouchers.
- ☐ Take photos/videos of all damage before cleanup and email to yourself (interior, exterior, possessions)
- ☐ Start a journal documenting all conversations with insurance and relief agencies.
- ☐ Make a detailed inventory of damaged belongings.

For Renters

- ☐ Contact your landlord or property manager immediately to report damage.
- ☐ Request written communication on repair timelines and responsibilities.
- ☐ Ask about temporary housing options or rent abatement.
- ☐ Contact your renter's insurance company to begin the claims process
- ☐ Contact local tenant advocacy groups if you're at risk of eviction.
- ☐ Ask about Additional Living Expense Coverage

For Homeowners

- ☐ Notify your homeowner's insurance company to begin the claims process.
- ☐ Take steps to prevent further damage (board windows, tarp roofs) and keep all receipts.
- ☐ Ask your insurer about coverage for temporary housing or displacement costs.

RESIDENT SUPPORT SURVEY

Scan the code to submit via phone or visit the website at actionstl.org/tornado



INSURANCE & FINANCIAL RELIEF

- ☐ File claims with your home or renters insurance provider.
- ☐ Keep copies of all claims filed and include a log of phone calls
- ☐ Save all receipts for temporary lodging, repairs, meals, and supplies.
- ☐ Apply for FEMA assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov
- ☐ Contact your mortgage lender or landlord to ask about payment flexibility and if any funds or payments will be withheld.
- ☐ Check with your employer for emergency leave, assistance, or hardship funds
- ☐ Explore eligibility for Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans (available to renters and homeowners, not just businesses).

VITAL DOCUMENTS & RECORDS

- ☐ Secure or retrieve important personal documents, such as:
 - ☐ Identification (driver's license, passport)
 - ☐ Social Security cards
 - ☐ Birth certificates
- ☐ Health and property insurance cards
- ☐ Lease or mortgage paperwork
- ☐ Banking or employment records
- ☐ Vehicle titles
- ☐ Property deeds
- ☐ If documents are lost or damaged, contact the issuing agencies for replacements.
- ☐ Do a temporary address change at the Post Office.

LEGAL HELP & ADVOCACY

Do not sign anything under pressure or without legal review

- ☐ Contact Legal Services of Eastern Missouri or another local legal aid organization for help with:
 - ☐ Renters' rights and disputes with landlords
 - ☐ Filing insurance appeals or denials
 - ☐ Eviction prevention and housing access
- ☐ **National Disaster Legal Services Hotline:**
888-743-5749

MENTAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

- ☐ Try to maintain routines and sleep schedules, especially for children.
- ☐ Allow yourself time to grieve and recover—disaster recovery is a long process.
- ☐ Speak with a counselor or hotline if you're feeling overwhelmed:

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

Missouri Crisis Line: 1-888-761-4357

BASIC NEEDS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- ☐ Locate local relief centers offering:
 - ☐ Food and clean drinking water
 - ☐ Diapers, baby formula, hygiene kits
 - ☐ Cleaning supplies and protective gear
 - ☐ Clothing, shoes, and blankets
- ☐ Contact your child's school to inform them of displacement and ask about available supports.
- ☐ Ask about mental health services or grief and trauma counseling.

HOME REPAIR & CLEAN UP

*** BEWARE OF SCAMS! * CHECK ID & CREDENTIALS FOR ALL PROVIDERS**

Structural & Safety Assessments

- ☐ Before entering a damaged structure, have it inspected by a licensed structural engineer or building inspector.
- ☐ Be cautious of:
 - ☐ Cracked or leaning walls
 - ☐ Exposed electrical wiring
 - ☐ Water damage and mold
 - ☐ Loose bricks, debris, or unstable chimneys
- ☐ Do not attempt cleanup inside the home until it's been cleared as structurally safe.

Who to Contact for Repairs

- ☐ **General Contractor** – To oversee the rebuilding process and coordinate trades.
- ☐ **Structural Engineer** – To assess foundation, wall, and support beam integrity.
- ☐ **Brick Masonry Contractor** – Repairs or building of brick walls, chimneys, and facades.
- ☐ **Roofing Contractor** – Especially those experienced with wind and hail damage; look for certification and insurance.
- ☐ **Framing Carpenter** – replacement of wooden framing or roof trusses.
- ☐ **Electrician & Plumber** – If utilities were impacted
- ☐ **HVAC Technician** – inspection or repair of heating and cooling systems.

Debris Removal & Cleanup

- ☐ Contact your local municipality to ask about:

- ☐ Debris pickup services or drop-off locations
- ☐ Rules around dumpster placement
- ☐ Volunteer cleanup crews or mutual aid networks
- ☐ Clear debris slowly and safely, wearing appropriate protective gear (see below).
- ☐ Separate debris into piles: household waste, construction debris (brick, roofing), vegetation, and hazardous materials (paint, chemicals). Use tarps to cover exposed parts of your home if you cannot begin repairs immediately.

Mold, Water Damage & Sanitation

- ☐ If water has entered the home, remove wet materials (drywall, insulation, carpeting) within 24–48 hours to prevent mold growth.
- ☐ Use a wet/dry vacuum, dehumidifiers, and fans if power is available.
- ☐ Disinfect all surfaces that had contact with floodwater or stormwater using bleach solution (1 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water).
- ☐ Consider hiring a water remediation specialist for large-scale or sewage-related flooding.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Cleanup

- ☐ **N95 or KN95 masks** – Essential to avoid inhaling mold spores, brick dust, or insulation particles.

- ☐ **Heavy-duty gloves** – To protect from sharp objects or nails.
- ☐ **Sturdy boots with thick soles** – Steel-toed if possible.
- ☐ **Goggles or safety glasses** – To protect eyes from dust and flying debris.
- ☐ **Hard hats** – If working in or around unstable structures.
- ☐ **Long sleeves and pants**

Caution Against Fraud & Unlicensed Contractors

- ☐ Always verify contractor licenses through the Missouri Attorney General's website or the Better Business Bureau.
- ☐ Don't make rushed decisions.
- ☐ Avoid cash-only deals or high-pressure sales tactics.
- ☐ Do not pay any than 10-25% initial deposit.
- ☐ Request written estimates, contracts, and proof of insurance.
- ☐ Keep copies of all agreements and document every repair stage with photos.
- ☐ Be sure contracts include a start date and completion date
- ☐ Do not share sensitive personal info with anyone without confirmed ID

Permits & Local Regulations

- ☐ Contact the City Building Department to determine if permits are required for repairs.
- ☐ Do not begin structural or electrical repairs until proper permits are secured.

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

RESOURCE GUIDE

RESOURCE HUBS:

People's Response Hub / Kingdom Church, 4112 W Florissant Ave
Open thru 6/28 on Tuesdays - Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
and Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Urban League, 1408 Kingshighway Blvd

The 314 Oasis, Fountain Park
Follow @wokedoc on instagram for hours

West Side Missionary Baptist Church, 4675 Page Blvd
Open Monday thru Friday 9am to 4pm

St. James AME Church, 4301 St Ferdinand Ave
Thursdays and Fridays, 12pm to 4pm

Influence Church, 4324 Margaretta Ave
Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10:30am to 6pm

MEAL SERVICES:

The SPOT/Project ARK, 4169 Laclede St | 314-535-0413

Soulcial Kitchen - Greer, 4701 Greer Ave | 719-338-1547

Covenant House Missouri (Youth), 2727 N. Kingshighway Blvd
Mon-Fri - 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Soulcial Kitchen, 3836 Natural Bridge | 719-338-1547

RED CROSS OVERNIGHT SHELTERS:

Crossroads College Preparatory School, 500 DeBaliviere Ave

Ferguson Nazarene Church, 1309 Elizabeth, Ferguson, MO

Peter and Paul Community Services, 2612 Wyoming

Urban League Peter Bunce Campus, 2141 Bissell St.
Nightly transportation is available at 8:00PM at the following:
• Save-A-Lot, 4447 Natural Bridge Ave
• Academy - Sherman Park: 5200 Cates Ave

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

FEMA APPLICATIONS

DisasterAssistance.gov
800-621-3362



St. Louis Public Radio
application guide
bit.ly/FEMASTL

Application deadline is August, 11th



ST. LOUIS CITY DISASTER ASSISTANCE CENTER

Chaifetz Arena, 1 S Compton

Center will be open on the following dates between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

- June 23-26

You are encouraged to pre-register for an appointment online at bit.ly/STLDAC or by calling 2-1-1

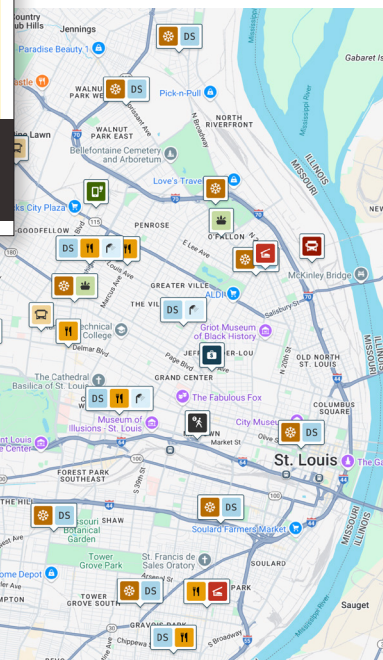
RESIDENT SUPPORT INTAKE FORM



Complete this form to request local support with your recovery needs

www.actionstl.org/tornado

RESOURCE MAP



Map Legend

	Business Recovery Centers
	Charging Stations
	Cooling Centers
	Debris Dropoffs
	Disaster Assistance Centers
	Drop-in Sites
	Food Pantries
	Meal Services
	Overnight Shelters
	Portable Restrooms
	Shower Sites
	Supply Pickup Centers
	Transportation Pickup Sites

INTERACTIVE MAP LINK:



bit.ly/44gNdAA

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:



**STL Recovers:
Help for Residents**
bit.ly/STLRecovers

Red Cross Disaster Line:
314-516-2700

Small Business Administration:
(800) 659-2955 | sba.gov/disaster

FEMA Help Line:
800-621-3362

United Way
2-1-1

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

STL HEAT WAVE RESOURCES

COOLING CENTERS ACTIVATED:

AmeriCorps St. Louis, 1315 Ann Ave
11:00am to 5:00pm. on days when the temperature reaches 100 degrees or higher

O'Fallon Park Rec Complex, 4343 W Florissant Ave

Multiple St. Louis Public Library branches
(Walnut Park, Divoll, Baden)

Northside Youth and Senior Center, 4120 Maffitt Avenue
Mon-Fri - 8:30am to 5:00pm

Urban League Headquarters, 1408 N. Kingshighway Blvd
9:00 am - 5:00pm daily

Oak Street Health – North City, 3451 Union Boulevard
Mon-Fri - 8:00am to 5:00pm



WATER FOUNTAIN STATIONS:

14th Street & Market Ave

Page Blvd & Hodiamont Ave

South Grand & Loughborough (look for silver dome hydrant)

Potomac & Grand (near Fire Station)

Soulard at 8th & Allen

North Grand near North Market

South Broadway & Courtois

Carr Street & North Broadway (take 6th Street to access due to dead end)

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

FEMA APPLICATIONS
DisasterAssistance.gov
800-621-3362



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RESIDENT SUPPORT INTAKE FORM



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www.actionstl.org/tornado



ACTION
St. Louis



4th VILLE



INVEST STL

MAP



INTERACTIVE MAP LINK:



bit.ly/coolSTL

To find the closest center to you, call **United Way** at 2-1-1

Important Heat Advisory Terms:

Heat Wave: Three or more days of temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Excessive Heat Advisory: A heat index of around 105 degrees F, or a heat index of 100-104 for at least 4 consecutive days.

Excessive Heat Warning: A heat index of around 110 degrees F for two days, or a heat index of around 105 degrees for 4 consecutive days.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:



STL Recovers: Help for Residents
bit.ly/STLRecovers

What you can do:

- ✓ Check on neighbors and family without A/C
- ✓ Stay hydrated, stay indoors, and stay informed
- ✓ If you're experiencing heat-related illness, call 911 immediately

Photos by Tyler Small



ACTION
— St. Louis —

**THE
PEOPLE'S
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actionstl.org