

HOW TO BE A CRITICAL PARTNER IN EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

In the event of a major or catastrophic earthquake in Arkansas, local citizens will be crucial for response and recovery efforts. There are many ways that citizens can become involved:

❖ **Volunteer with a recognized organization involved in disaster response and recovery prior to the next earthquake.**

Volunteer with a non-profit organization and be trained before the next earthquake to find meaningful volunteer opportunities following an earthquake. There are many organizations and faith-based groups that have active disaster programs and need volunteers. These groups offer a wide range of services following an earthquake: www.arvoad.com, www.serve.gov, www.citizencorps.gov, www.helpindisaster.org and www.networkforgood.org. You can also participate in or develop the [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Program within your community](#).

❖ **Give financial contributions to a recognized disaster relief organization**

Financial contributions are the most needed and the most efficient way of helping those impacted by the earthquake. These donations allow voluntary organizations to fund response and recovery efforts, obtain goods and services locally, and provide direct financial assistance to earthquake survivors to meet their own needs. If you need help determining who to give to, the [Arkansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) website has a list of major non-profits that are active in disaster work or you can make your donation through the [National Donations Management Network](#).

❖ **Donate needed goods to a recognized disaster relief organization**

Donate in-kind goods that are specifically requested or needed by recognized organizations. Confirm the needs by contacting the voluntary organization of your choice before starting to collect. Unsolicited donated goods such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items, and mixed or perishable foodstuffs require helping agencies to redirect valuable resources away from providing services to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of earthquake survivors. If you have a quantity of a given item or class of item to donate, and you need help in determining which organizations to give to, you can make your offer through the [National Donations Management Network](#).