



For Immediate Release

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Get Connected. Get Answers. Celebrate National 2-1-1 Day!

Easy to use Information and Referral Line is available 24/7

- Who:** Women's Leadership Council of United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area, in partnership with VIA LINK
- What:** Hold Open House at VIA LINK, the New Orleans Regional 2-1-1 Call Center. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available to their community during crisis or any time.
- Elected officials, state legislators and media are all invited to come to this Open House and see an important community system at work.**
- Where:** Napoleon Medical Plaza
2820 Napoleon Avenue, Suite 550
- When:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009
2 – 3 pm
- Why:** February 11th is recognized as National 2-1-1 Day and we want residents to know that 2-1-1 is here for them! The 2-1-1 calling system offers access to a broad range of services, including food banks, housing/shelter, physical and mental health resources, childcare, after-school programs, elderly care, financial literacy, job training programs and more. 2-1-1 also provides volunteer or donation opportunities.

Our 2-1-1 system has the capability to save lives. **Governor Jindal and the Department of Social Services (DSS) endorsed the use of 2-1-1 during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike as a helpful evacuation and safety resource.** "2-1-1 is a valuable tool for Louisiana communities because it connects people to referral systems that provide vital information and social services. 2-1-1 served a particularly important role during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike by providing necessary information to evacuees about shelters and evacuation routes as DSS worked with partners in the state to facilitate the largest evacuation in Louisiana history," said DSS Secretary Kristy Nichols.

2-1-1 centers are staffed by trained specialists who quickly assess callers' needs and refer them to the help they seek. It's simple to remember, accessible to everyone, and available 24/7 with multilingual capabilities. Louisiana has six call centers and is one of only 18 states that currently provide statewide coverage.

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