



# **Recovery through Federal-State-Local Partnership**

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**Provided by the White House  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs**

# I. Overview

In the days and weeks after a disaster, work begins for disaster affected communities to rebuild stronger, smarter, and safer. Recovery, however, begins long before a disaster impacts a community, and the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) is a resource for how the whole community works together to restore, redevelop, and revitalize.



Figure 1: Interrelationships of Whole Community in Recovery Process

The most effective disaster response and recovery efforts are locally developed and executed, state/tribal/territorially managed, and federally supported. Recovery planning is driven by the community and results from its vision, goals, and desired outcomes. It defines the resources needed to support community recovery before a disaster. Local government, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and community members form a critical partnership that informs recovery decisions, investments, and actions. Local governments serve as the lead for this planning and execute community recovery. Success in recovery requires local government and partner community organizations to look

comprehensively at recovery needs, set goals, and match those needs with the broad landscape of federal, state and non-governmental resources.

In some cases, it may be difficult for the community to take on significant responsibility for the recovery process because of a lack of capacity, resources, staff, or other factors. State and non-governmental resources can support the local community in response and recovery efforts. When a state is overwhelmed, the governor (or a tribal leader in the case of a tribe) can ask the President for a federal disaster declaration as provided for under the [Stafford Act](#). That statutorily prescribed process is outlined in more detail throughout this document.

Whether a disaster declaration is requested or not, the state emergency management agency and other pertinent state agencies, are critical resources to assist community recovery efforts at the local level and need to be part of recovery coordination. It is critical that [state and community planning for recovery begins before a disaster](#).

Beyond assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there are a range of [disaster resources](#) available to states, tribes and local communities to assist their recovery from a disaster. There are also resources across the Federal Government available to individuals and businesses that can be found [here](#). In addition to state resources, non-government whole community partners will also have [resources](#) that should be considered to help a community in recovery (more [here](#)).

As recovery is a whole community effort and the basis for these efforts ideally begins before a disaster, communities should build relationships with the private sector, philanthropic and

faith based sectors so it can prioritize the recovery of businesses critical to the community's recovery.

For Stafford Act disasters, FEMA coordinates the Federal Government's role in preparing for, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from domestic disasters. State Emergency Management Agencies play a key role in coordinating with and through FEMA. Below, please find more information on federal disaster relief assistance programs and the emergency and major disaster declaration process.

## **II. Federal Agency Overview**

### **A. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

#### **The Emergency and Major Disaster Declaration Process**

When impacts from a disaster or emergency are of such severity and magnitude that an effective response and recovery is beyond the combined capability of the state, tribal, territorial or local government, the governor or tribal chief executive can request a presidential declaration to supplement their response and recovery efforts.

Section 401 (42 U.S.C. § 5170) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act), states in part: "All requests for a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists shall be made by the Governor of the affected State." Likewise, Section 501 requires that requests for emergency declarations are made by the Governor. A "state" also includes the District of Columbia and territories. Federally recognized tribal governments also have the option of pursuing a declaration directly from the President or may apply for assistance through a state declaration as a recipient or sub-recipient. After review of the governor's, territorial, or tribal chief executive's request, FEMA makes a recommendation to the President on the approval or denial of the major disaster or emergency declaration. If a Stafford Act declaration is issued, the state or tribe and the Federal Government sign an agreement that provides the terms of assistance.

For state declarations, the governor requests which jurisdictions within the state (e.g., counties, cities) are included in the declaration request. Local officials work with their state emergency management agency to ensure the governor's request includes the assistance necessary and warranted by the jurisdiction. As the state or tribe learns more about the damage and other support that may be needed, it may request additional areas or types of supplementary federal assistance within 30 days from the end of an incident period, unless otherwise extended through an approved written request. This could include a request to add additional counties or localities that were impacted or request additional disaster programs.

## Disaster Declarations

There are two types of disaster declarations provided for in the Stafford Act: **emergency declarations** and **major disaster declarations**. Both declaration types authorize the President to provide supplemental federal disaster assistance to states. However, there are significant differences in the activities and programs available under the different types of declarations.

- **Emergency Declarations:** The President can declare an emergency for any occasion or instance when the President determines federal assistance is needed. Emergency declarations supplement state, territorial, tribal, and local government efforts in providing emergency assistance, such as the protection of lives, property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. The total amount of assistance provided for in a single emergency may not generally exceed \$5 million. The President must report to Congress if this amount is exceeded.
- **Major Disaster Declarations:** The President can declare a major disaster for any natural catastrophe, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that the President determines has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of State and local governments to respond. A major disaster declaration provides a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for both emergency and permanent work. More in-depth information can be found on FEMA's website: [The Disaster Declaration Process](#).

## Disaster Relief Assistance Programs

There are three categories of FEMA disaster assistance available when a governor requests a major disaster under the Stafford Act: Public Assistance Programs, Individual Assistance Programs, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs.

- **Public Assistance Programs:** The Public Assistance Program supports state and local governments and certain non-profit entities through grants to assist them with the response to and recovery from disasters. Through the program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly-owned facilities, and the facilities of certain PNP organizations. The PA program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

The federal share of assistance is not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost. The Recipient (usually the state) determines how the non-federal share (up to 25 percent) is split with the sub-recipients (eligible applicants). More [here](#) and [fact sheet](#).

- **Individual Assistance Programs:** Help individuals and households with housing, personal property losses, transportation, medical, dental, and funeral costs, childcare expenses, and more. If Individual Assistance is included in the governor's request and it is approved by the President, individuals in the applicable counties register for assistance with FEMA. More [here](#) and [fact sheet](#).
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs:** Designed to reduce future losses to public and private property. This grant program is also administered by state agencies and is based on state, tribal, territorial, and local Mitigation Plans approved by FEMA. More [here](#).

### **Disaster Training**

Numerous training resources and courses are available from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) to assist state and local officials with guidance and information on FEMA programs. Under the National Incident Management System (NIMS), local officials involved in decision making for incident management and response can take the courses below to become familiar with how the Nation's Incident Management System (ICS) works across state, tribal and local governments.

- ICS 100.C - Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100 ([click here](#))
- IS-200.b - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents ([click here](#))
- ICS 700.B - NIMS Introduction ([click here](#))

FEMA has compiled a list of [training resources](#) that are available to local officials in our online [Community Recovery Toolkit](#). Trainings are offered in a variety of locations and settings, which provide communities with resources to help them plan for and execute long-term recovery in coordination with the state.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures, by providing affordable flood insurance to property owners, renters and businesses and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. These efforts help mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures. The NFIP plays a key role along with FEMA to help individuals recover from flood damage as insurance helps speed the recovery process. The NFIP is a voluntary federal program enabling property owners in NFIP participating communities to purchase insurance. A participating community's floodplain management regulations must meet or exceed the NFIP minimum requirements. FEMA administers the NFIP and it is a partnership between the Federal Government, the property and casualty insurance industry, state, tribal and local officials, lending institutions, and property owners. For more information about the NFIP, go [here](#).

### **Point(s) of Contact - List of FEMA Regions and Contacts**

- FEMA Regional Offices ([here](#))

## **B. The White House**

### **White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs**

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is a part of the Executive Office of the President and serves as the primary liaison between the White House and State, county (or county-equivalent), local, and tribal governments. The office focuses on building new and maintaining current relationships with governors, tribal leaders, mayors, State legislators, and county executives. The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs works with federal agencies and departments to ensure appropriate coordination between State, local, and tribal governments and the Federal Government.

You can reach the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs via email at [IGA.state@who.eop.gov](mailto:IGA.state@who.eop.gov).

## **C. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**Overview:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers several programs to help farmers recover financially from natural disasters, including drought and floods. USDA, through its new website [Farmers.gov](http://Farmers.gov), offers a [disaster assistance discovery tool](#) that walks producers through five questions to help them identify personalized results of which USDA disaster assistance programs can help them recover after a natural disaster.

**Agricultural Programs:** Disaster declarations make producers in declared counties eligible to take advantage of [emergency loan programs](#) if they meet program requirements. These low-interest loans help farmers and ranchers recover from production and physical losses. USDA has several standing emergency programs that help producers recover from the storm. They are outlined below and can be found at USDA – [Disaster Assistance Programs](#). The assistance below are provided directly from USDA to individuals. Individuals in impacted areas needing assistance can contact their local USDA Service Center for assistance.

- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):** Pays 75% of a standard value for lost livestock due to a disaster. Contract growers are also eligible for poultry and swine losses, at lower rates. Livestock owners and contract growers who experience above normal livestock deaths due to specific weather events, as well as to disease or animal attacks, may qualify for assistance under [Livestock Indemnity Program](#).
- **Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP):** Pays for livestock death losses, feed costs and water hauling due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands, as long as these losses not covered by other USDA programs. More [here](#).
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP):** Pays for reforming conservation structures, rebuilding fences, removal of debris and carcasses. More [here](#).

- **Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP):** Pays up to 75% of cost to complete restoration practices such as debris removal, replanting, restoration of forestland roads – must be done in private, non-industrial forests. More [here](#).
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP):** Pays up to 75% for commodity-producing trees to be replanted, debris to be removed, trees to be rehabilitated. More [here](#).
- **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):** Acts like crop insurance where Federal policies are not offered. Producers who suffer losses to or are preventing from planting agricultural commodities not covered by federal crop insurance may be eligible for assistance if the losses were due to natural disasters. More [here](#).
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP):** Used to help secure dams and levees to prevent overflowing and loss of life and can help relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by flood, fires and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. More [here](#).
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Helps with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover and conserve water resources. More [here](#).
- **Crop Insurance:** Purchased crop insurance through the Risk Management Agency administered federal crop insurance program will be paid for covered losses for the producers who chose to protect their risk exposure. More [here](#).

#### **Other Programs**

- **The Forest Service:** Coordinates with FEMA and State Emergency Operation Centers to find the right equipment, people, and resources needed for response efforts and assists in post-event recovery. More [here](#).
- **The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Disaster Assistance:** Coordinates with State, local, and voluntary organizations to provide food for shelters and other mass feeding sites. FNS also offers operational flexibilities for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and, where warranted, Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, and the Child Nutrition Programs. More [here](#).
- **Rural Development Disaster Assistance:** Helps homeowners, businesses and utilities that are current USDA borrowers by considering requests to defer principal and/or interest payments, and to provide additional temporary loans. More [here](#).

#### **D. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**Overview:** During response, FEMA has the lead responsibility for sheltering and interim housing, with HUD playing a supportive role. For most disasters, HUD’s assistance primarily comes in the forms of mortgage assistance and regulatory flexibilities to support impacted communities and individuals. In the event of large-scale disasters, Congress may appropriate funds to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program when there are significant unmet needs for long-term recovery. A fact sheet on the program is available [here](#).

- **Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program:** In the event of large-scale disasters, Congress may appropriate funds to HUD through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program when there are significant unmet needs for long-term recovery. A fact sheet on the program is available [here](#) and additional information may be found [here](#).
- **CDBG Funds for Post-Disaster Community Needs:** Among the allowable uses of CDBG funds following a presidentially declared disaster are:
  1. Emergency, Short-Term Assistance: Activities such as debris removal or an immediate repair to publicly-owned utilities may be funded with CDBG funds when emergency conditions exist that threaten the public health and safety and such activities are not fully funded by FEMA, SBA, or other sources. More information can be found [here](#).
  2. Hazard Insurance Deductible: CDBG funds may be used to pay for the deductible amount of a homeowner’s hazard insurance after a storm as a public service activity. Emergency grant payments may be made directly to the insurance provider on behalf of an income-eligible individual or family. If there is no duplication of benefit, this assistance is likely to be a one-time payment and would be subject to the public services cap.
  3. Public Services: CDBG funds can also be used for other public service activities that would assist those impacted by the disaster. While the general rule is that CDBG may not be used for income payments, such as rent and security deposits, food, and utilities, CDBG funds may be used as emergency grant payments over a period of up to three consecutive months to the provider of such items or services on behalf of an individual or family.

Additional information on the use of CDBG funds for post-disaster needs is available [here](#).

- **HOME Funds for Disaster Relief:** HOME funds can be used in variety of ways to facilitate disaster recovery:
  1. Housing: Repair, rehabilitate or rebuild properties damaged by a disaster or to construct new housing to meet post-disaster housing needs.

2. Home Buying: A HOME grantee may opt to provide direct homeownership assistance to households affected by a disaster to enable them to purchase a new home.
  3. Rental Assistance: While provision of tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) to households displaced by a disaster is an eligible HOME activity, this should only be considered for households that cannot receive FEMA assistance. HOME TBRA can only be used to rent housing units. It may not be used for hotels or other temporary shelter that does not constitute housing.
- **Mortgage Assistance from the Federal Housing Administration (FHA)**: Following a presidentially declared disaster, FHA offers the following assistance for disaster victims:
    1. Foreclosure Relief: FHA activates a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and special loss mitigation assistance to help disaster-impacted borrowers retain their homes. More information can be found [here](#).
    2. Mortgage Insurance Programs: Through Section 203(h) and other programs, FHA insures loans to rebuild or rehabilitate homes that were destroyed or damaged by the disaster. More information on these programs can be found [here](#).

For a presidentially declared disaster, FHA publishes a mortgagee letter implementing a short-term renewable foreclosure moratorium for FHA-insured loans. FHA also has a variety of insured loan programs and loss mitigation options for disaster victims. More information can be found [here](#).

## **E. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

**Overview:** The Department of Health and Human Services is the Coordinating Agency of the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function under the National Disaster Recovery Framework. For general information on HHS's role in disaster response and recovery, see [here](#).

- **National Center for Environmental Health:** Conducts research in the laboratory and in the field to investigate the effects of the environment on health. Tracks and evaluates environment-related health problems through surveillance systems. Helps domestic and international agencies and organizations prepare for and respond to natural, technologic, humanitarian, and terrorism-related environmental emergencies. More [here](#).
- **Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance Program (ERHMS):** The Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) system is a

health monitoring and surveillance framework that includes recommendations and tools specific to protect emergency responders during all phases of a response, including pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment phases. More [here](#).

- **Public Health Communications:** Identify appropriate, applicable resources for training and messaging that considers language and educational proficiency. More [here](#).
- **Center for Preparedness and Response:** The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement has provided assistance to public health departments across the nation. This helps health departments build and strengthen their abilities to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. Preparedness activities funded by the PHEP cooperative agreement specifically targeted the development of emergency-ready public health departments that are flexible and adaptable. More [here](#).
- **Worker Training Program:** Provides funding and training for protecting the health and safety of those responding to the aftermath of a hurricane or flood, including emergency responders, skilled support personnel, homeowners, and business owners. More [here](#).
- **Hospital Preparedness Program:** To strengthen and enhance the capabilities of state, local, and territorial public health and health care systems to respond effectively (mitigate the loss of life and reduce the threats to the community's health and safety) to evolving threats and other emergencies within the United States. More [here](#).
- **emPOWER Initiative:** Provides Medicare claims data and mapping tools to assist federal, state, territorial, local and community partners with identifying at-risk populations with access and functional needs that include dependence on electricity-dependent durable medical equipment and healthcare services (e.g. home health, dialysis and oxygen tank service). More [here](#).
- **Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Health Centers Program Grantees:** Health centers deliver critical services and support community response during natural or manmade disasters that affect the United States or its territories. Disasters also affect health centers. More [here](#).
- **Policy Information Notice 2007-16: Federal Tort Claims Act Coverage for Health Center Program Grantees Responding to Emergencies:** Describes how medical malpractice liability protection for deemed Health Center Program grantees works during an emergency. More [here](#).

- **340B Flexibilities During Disasters:** Make it easier for covered entities to provided needed care during emergencies and disasters. More [here](#).
- **Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program:** Provides benefits to individuals (or their survivors) harmed by the use of a countermeasure specified in Federal declarations to prevent or treat a declared pandemic, epidemic or security threat. More [here](#).
- **1135 Waivers:** Under section 1135 of the Social Security Act, certain Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements may be temporarily waived or modified to ensure sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals in the emergency area so providers who provide such services in good faith can be reimbursed and exempted from sanctions. More [here](#).
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):** CSBG funding supports projects that: Lessen poverty in communities; Address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly; Provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health. More [here](#). Other grant programs include: [Social Services Block Grant](#) and [Rural Community Development \(RCD\)](#).
- **National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN):** Provides resources for communities, providers, educators, children, and parents on natural disasters and trauma. More [here](#).
- **Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC):** Assists states, territories, tribes, and local entities with all-hazards disaster behavioral health response planning that allows them to prepare for and respond to both natural and human-caused disasters. Grants include [Target Capacity Expansion Grants](#) and [Community Mental Health Services Block Grant](#). More [here](#).
- **Disaster Assistance for State Units on Aging:** Provide disaster reimbursement and assistance funds to those State Units on Aging (SUAs) and federally recognized Tribal Organizations who are currently receiving a grant under Title VI of the Older Americans Act (OAA). More [here](#).

## **F. U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), National Center for Disaster Fraud**

**Overview:** The Department of Justice established the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, when billions of dollars in Federal disaster relief poured into the Gulf Coast region, which opened opportunities for criminals to exploit people during vulnerable times. The NCDF, a national coordinating agency within the Department's Criminal Division, operates a call center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and serves as a centralized clearinghouse for disaster fraud complaints and information relating to both natural and man-made disasters. The NCDF seeks to improve and further the

detection, prevention, investigation, and prosecution of fraud related to natural and man-made disasters, and to advocate for victims of such fraud. Since 2005, the NCDF has received over 92,000 complaints relating to disaster fraud from sources in 50 States, 6 U.S. territories, and 4 foreign countries involving over 100 natural and man-made disasters, to include hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, tornados, chemical spills and explosions, and earthquakes.

While compassion, assistance, and solidarity are generally prevalent in the aftermath of natural disasters, unscrupulous individuals and organizations also use these tragic events to take advantage of those in need. Examples of illegal activity being reported to the NCDF and law enforcement include:

- Impersonation of Federal law enforcement officials;
- Identity theft;
- Fraudulent submission of claims to insurance companies and the Federal government;
- Fraudulent activity related to solicitations for donations and charitable giving;
- Fraudulent activity related to individuals and organizations promising high investment returns from profits from recovery and cleanup efforts;
- Price gouging;
- Contractor Fraud;
- Debris removal fraud;
- Theft, looting, and other violent crime

More information about NCDF can be found [here](#).

## **G. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

**Overview:** The Department of Transportation's Office of Intelligence, Security and Emergency Response (S-60) is responsible for providing the Secretary and senior DOT leadership with all threats and all hazards situational awareness and decision support products (more information on S-60 can be found [here](#)). Additionally, S-60 leads the Department's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities as the lead for **Emergency Support Function-1 (ESF-1) 1 – Transportation** and in accordance with the National Response and Disaster Recovery Frameworks (more information on ESF-1 can be found [here](#)). Activities support local, State, tribal, territorial, insular area, and Federal governmental entities, voluntary organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. To accomplish this, S-60:

- Monitors and reports status of and damage to the transportation system and infrastructure – air, maritime, highways, railways, and pipelines;
- Identifies temporary alternative transportation solutions;
- Performs activities conducted under the direct authority of DOT elements;
- Coordinates the restoration and recovery of the transportation systems and infrastructure; and

- Coordinates and supports prevention, preparedness, and response, recovery, and mitigation activities among transportation stakeholders.

In addition, ESF-1 coordinates the efforts of the Modal Administrations (Office of the Secretary, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, etc.) to provide, technical assistance, and regulatory relief to facilitate resumption of essential services. Examples of these include:

- Convening the Federal Highway Administration's Evacuation Liaison Team to provide technical assistance to State DOTs undertaking multi-State pre-disaster evacuations;
- Providing airspace management through the coordination of emergency airspace operations including temporary flight restrictions, flight flow management, unmanned aerial system use waivers, etc.;
- Providing joint damage assessment teams to work with States to quickly inspect and document damage to transportation infrastructure;
- Providing emergency relief funding to supplement the commitment of resources by States, their political subdivisions, or other Federal agencies to help pay for unusually heavy expenses resulting from extraordinary conditions;
  - o Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief (ER) Program and Emergency Relief for Federally-Owned Roads (ERFO) for the repair and reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage because of natural disasters or other external causes
  - o Federal Transit Administration to provide assistance to public transit operators during and in the aftermath of an emergency or major disaster
- Issuing certain waivers and/or special permits (a list of approved declarations, waivers, exemptions, and permits can be found [here](#)) such as:
  - o Waivers of hours of service to facilitate truckers delivering relief supplies to an impacted area;
  - o Special permits to waive certain hazardous material transportation requirements;
  - o Waivers of cabotage restrictions;
  - o Emergency relief docket waiver requests – permits railroads to petition for relief from Federal Railroad Administration regulations;
- Permitting active duty military to fill gaps in availability of commercial drivers licensed truckers when needed;

## Programs/Departments

- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** The [FAA](#) undertakes pre-storm action to put in place contingency plans and responses. Such actions may include Air Traffic Organization (ATO) coordination with potentially affected airlines and other operators; sustainment of operations by the Crisis Response Group and Joint Air Traffic Operations Command (JATOC) Crisis Action Team operations; activation of the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) Emergency Support Function - 1

Aviation Element; and authorization of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Special Governmental Interest (SGI). For information on temporary flight restrictions, go [here](#). For flight delay information, go [here](#).

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** FHWA provides stewardship over the construction, maintenance and preservation of the Nation's highways, bridges, and tunnels. FHWA also conducts research and provides technical assistance to state and local agencies in an effort to improve safety, mobility, and livability, and to encourage innovation. FHWA's primary mechanisms for emergency response are the ER and ERFO Programs. These programs provide funding for the repair and reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage because of natural disasters or other external causes. For information on the ER Program, go [here](#).
- **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA):** When an official governmental Declaration of Emergency is issued for a type of major emergency, motor carriers and operators of commercial motor vehicles that are providing emergency relief through direct assistance to support State and local efforts to save lives or property or to protect public health or safety, are relieved from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations listed in 49 CFR Parts 390-399. For information on emergency declarations, waivers, exemptions and permits, go [here](#).
- **Maritime Administration (MARAD):** MARAD manages a fleet of government-owned ships that are kept in a reduced operating status with partial crews that can support disaster response and humanitarian assistance when not needed to augment DOD operations. MARAD operates the Maritime Administration's Coordination Center and supports the DOT Crisis Management Center.

Support includes staging first response equipment and personnel via SafeStor; providing Command and Control platforms; providing responder care via berthing, meals, and associated concierge services; delivering critical cargo delivery to survivors and responders in theater; conducting Joint Logistics Over the Shore (JLOTS) operations; and providing crane services to lighter barges and other military and commercial vessels with aid cargoes. The Ready Reserve Fleet Readiness and Location Map can be found [here](#). For more information, go [here](#).

- **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA):** FRA strives to provide safe, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation of both people and goods along America's railways. They enforce safety regulations and transportation policies to meet the needs those who rely on dynamic railway transportation.

The Administrator may activate emergency relief provisions, providing regulatory relief to petitioners. Emergency Declarations are accessible [here](#).

- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA):** During hurricane season, FTA remains prepared to help transit agencies in affected areas provide rescue, recovery and transport services. In addition, FTA can waive certain regulations following any presidential emergency declaration. Additional information can be found at [FTA Hurricane & Natural Disaster Response](#) and Emergency Relief Program.
- **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA):** PHMSA's mission is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy products and other hazardous materials that are essential to daily lives. PHMSA is responsible for carrying out a national program to ensure the safe, reliable, and environmentally-sound operation of the nation's natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline transportation system. PHMSA also makes recommendations to the Secretary to establish national policy and enforce standards, educate, and conducts research to prevent and safeguard life and property from the risks associated with transporting hazardous materials. Emergency special permits, safety orders, and corrective action orders are actions PHMSA may apply to increase security and facilitate a more efficient response and recovery.

PHMSA's Emergency Response Guidebook provides first responders with a go-to manual to help deal with hazmat transportation accidents. It can be found [here](#).

## **H. U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)**

**Overview:** The Department of Commerce (DOC) has programs that provide severe weather forecasts and assist in disaster recovery, primarily through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). An agency within the Department of Commerce, the mission of the EDA is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

- **Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Recovery:** EDA's role in disaster recovery is to facilitate the timely and effective delivery of Federal economic development assistance to support long-term community economic recovery planning and project implementation, redevelopment and resiliency. More in-depth information can be found [here](#).
  1. **Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program:** EAA can support a wide range of construction and non-construction activities. This includes disaster recovery planning strategies as well as the implementation of disaster recovery projects. EDA provides grants to State, local, or tribal governments, as well as institutions of higher learning and non-profit organizations.
  2. **Economic Recovery Support Function (RSF):** EDA serves as the coordinating agency for the [Economic Recovery Support Function \(RSF\)](#) on behalf of the DOC. In this capacity, EDA provides leadership, coordination and oversight for

primary and support agencies, all of which share a role in the provision of grants, loans, training and other forms of assistance to support economic recovery efforts in disaster-impacted communities and regions.

3. EDA-Supported Disaster Recovery Tools: EDA partnered with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to produce a suite of economic recovery informational tools, which can be found at [RestoreYourEconomy.org](http://RestoreYourEconomy.org).

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Disaster Recovery**

1. Fishery Disaster Assistance: Fisheries are subject to several factors that can cause sudden and unexpected losses, leading to serious economic impact for fishers and their communities. In these instances, a State governor or an elected or duly appointed representative of an affected fishing community can request a fishery disaster determination from the Secretary of Commerce. Learn more about fishery disaster determinations [here](#).
2. National Ocean Service (NOS): When a disaster is imminent or strikes unexpectedly, NOS is prepared to provide a broad range of scientific, technical, and policy experts to support the response and inform recovery.
3. The National Hurricane Center (NHC): Forecasts the path of major hurricanes using the “Hurricane Hunter” aircraft, which produces over 500 hours of data for forecasters and emergency responders to prepare for what could be ahead. More information can be found [here](#).

- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)**

1. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program: Provides advisory services to help businesses, including those that may suffer from damages caused by natural disaster. The MEP Program is administered through the state MEP Center. More information, including MEP Center Contact information, can be found [here](#).
2. The Disaster and Failure Studies Program: In some cases NIST may send researchers to affected areas after a disaster to study the infrastructure damage and emergency systems. The results of their studies help inform communities during re-building efforts. More information can be found [here](#).

- **U.S. Census Bureau Responders Assistance**: The Census Bureau provides disaster relief assistance by supplying decision-makers with the demographics of impacted areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) utilizes this data to ensure a more precise response to disaster efforts.

## **I. Department of Labor (DOL)**

**Overview:** The Department of Labor (DOL) can provide a variety of assistance to assist in the recovery to a disaster. The following highlights several of DOL's programs. More information can also be found on DOL's Severe Storm and Flood Recovery Assistance page ([here](#)).

- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):** DOL oversees the DUA program and coordinates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to provide the funds to the [state unemployment insurance agencies](#) for payment of DUA benefits and payment of state administration costs under agreements with the Secretary of Labor. Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster and who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

When a major disaster has been declared by the President, DUA is generally available to any unemployed worker or self-employed individual who lived, worked, or was scheduled to work in the disaster area at the time of the disaster; and due to the disaster: (i) no longer has a job or a place to work; (ii) cannot reach the place of work; cannot work due to damage to the place of work; or (iv) cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.

An individual who becomes the head of household and is seeking work because the former head of household died as a result of the disaster may also qualify for DUA benefits. In the event of a disaster, the affected state will publish announcements about the availability of Disaster Unemployment Assistance. For more information, go [here](#).

- **National Dislocated Worker Grants:** National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs), formerly known as National Emergency Grants (NEGs), are discretionary grants awarded by the Secretary of Labor. DWGs provide resources to states and other eligible applicants to respond to large, unexpected layoff events causing significant job losses. This funding is intended to temporarily expand capacity to serve dislocated workers, including military service members, and meet the increased demand for employment and training services, with a purpose to reemploy laid off workers and enhance their employability and earnings. Disaster DWGs provide funding to create temporary employment opportunities to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts, when state or locality impacted by disaster is designated as eligible for public assistance under the declaration or otherwise recognized by a federal agency with authority or jurisdiction over Federal response to the emergency or disaster. For more information, go [here](#).
- **Worker Safety Guidance:** The Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) makes technical assistance and resources available to help

protect those participating in cleanup and recovery efforts. For information on the hazards and precautions in recovery, go [here](#).

## **I. U.S. Department of Education (ED)**

**Overview:** The Department of Education works with other federal agencies, including FEMA and DHS, to ensure continuation of critical services to students, families, and educators and the restoration of the learning environment. The Department of Education has a variety of tools and resources designed to assist with disaster recovery. They are outlined below.

- **Hurricane Disaster Assistance:** ED works with other federal agencies, such as FEMA and DHS, to ensure continuation of critical services to students, families, and educators and the restoration of the learning environment. More information can be found [here](#).
- **Non-Regulatory Guidance on Flexibility for Grantees Impacted by Disasters:** When a disaster declaration under the Stafford Act is issued, the Secretary is empowered to consider waivers from federal requirements in certain department programs and other potential forms of relief. Generally, when natural disasters occur, the Department provides State educational agencies, local educational agencies, Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools, postsecondary institutions and other department grantees and program participants, including charter schools and nonpublic schools, with information about the flexibility that is available to help them maintain continuity of operations and education during their period of recovery. While some of the flexibility is dependent upon the level of impact caused by the natural disaster, an example of this kind of non-regulatory relief can be found on our [website](#).
- **Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMS TA) Center:** Our nation's schools and school districts are entrusted with providing a safe and healthy learning environment for students, faculty, and staff members. Faced with emergencies ranging from active shooter situations to fires, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and pandemic influenza, this is no easy task. Many of these emergencies occur with little to no warning. It is critical for all schools and school districts—public and private, large and small, rural and urban—to plan ahead to ensure the safety and general welfare of all members of their school community.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS) administers the REMS TA Center, which serves two critical functions. The REMS TA Center helps to build the preparedness capacity (including prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts) of schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education (IHEs), and their community partners at the local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal levels. The Center also serves as the primary source of information dissemination for schools, school districts, and IHEs for emergencies via the REMS TA Center Website.

For more information about the REMS TA Center, please visit the [website](#) or contact the center via email at [info@remstacenter.org](mailto:info@remstacenter.org).

- **Project School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV):** Project SERV provides funding for local educational agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs) in which the learning environment has been disrupted due to a violent or traumatic incident, to provide resources to respond to the event and re-establish a safe environment conducive to learning. Any traumatic or violent event, that disrupted teaching and learning, is eligible for services under Project SERV if the LEA or IHE is able to: (1) demonstrate the traumatic effect on the learning environment including how the event has disrupted teaching and learning; and (2) demonstrate that the needed services cannot be adequately provided with existing resources in a comprehensive and timely manner, and that the provision of services and assistance will result in an undue financial hardship on the LEA or IHE.

The Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS) administers the Project SERV program. For more information regarding Project SERV, please visit our [website](#).

## **K. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

**Overview:** The Office of Emergency Management & Resilience (OEMR) within the VA Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) has programmatic responsibility for preparedness, emergency management, disaster response, and continuity activities. When a critical incident or disaster occurs affecting VA facilities, employees, Veterans, and/or Veteran service delivery, OEMR, through the VA Integrated Operations Center, advises on available capabilities and resources and coordinates (i) senior official situational awareness and decision support, (ii) critical incident information flow, (iii) reach back to organizational subject matter experts, (iv) participation in Federal disaster response and recovery efforts, and (v) monitors the commitment of resources designed to mitigate the effects of a disaster.

### **Programs**

- **Veterans Health (877-222-8387):** The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is the program office for the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Comprehensive Emergency Management Program (CEMP), and thus has overall responsibility for CEMP program development and implementation. In an emergency or disaster, OEM coordinates essential VHA emergency medical response and support services at the local, regional, and national levels. VHA OEM's mission ensures the continuity and resilience of health and safety of our Veteran patients, their families, staff, and visitors through the continued and uninterrupted delivery of VHA health care services regardless of the challenges or threats.

- **Veteran Home Loans** (877-827-3702): Following a disaster, VA can assist veterans if they encounter some challenges with meeting their mortgage terms. The VA can assist veterans with this by issuing 90-day moratoriums on foreclosures or waivers for late charges for mortgage payments. Also, the VA may be able to work with lenders to apply pre-payments already made to your upcoming mortgage payment.
- **Veteran Education** (888-442-4551): Veteran students should not have to suffer any additional hardships following a disaster, and focus on their recovery. That is why the VA is committed to easing the burden as much as possible. For students in receipt of GI Bill payments, attendance is considered continuous for up to 4 weeks for the purpose of stipend payments.

### **Other Groups/Special Groups**

- **Employment Adjustment Allowance** (800-827-1000): In the event of a disaster, VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service will continue Employment Adjustment Allowance payments for Veterans participating in employment services for an additional two months.
- **Rapid Re-Housing and Rental Assistance** (877-424-3838): Veterans displaced from their homes are eligible for assistance through various VA and joint programs for eligible veterans.
- **Adapted Housing** (877-827-3702): Veterans may be eligible for assistance with a previously adapted house if it is damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster, provided the damage was not otherwise covered by private insurance.
- **Automobile and Adaptive Equipment** (800-827-1000): Veterans may be eligible for assistance with a previously adapted automobile if it is destroyed as a result of a disaster, provided the damage was not otherwise covered by private insurance.
- **Pension Benefit Assistance Post Disaster** (800-827-1000): VA has processes to expedite assistance for veterans VA Pension and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments.
- **Debt Management Center** (800-827-0648): For questions on repayment, offsets, hardships and waivers for debt owed to VA after a disaster.
- **Memorial Affairs:** VA manages incidents affecting national cemeteries issues through the VA Memorial Affairs Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. 38 U.S.C. §2402 identifies persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries. While the majority of those eligible are affiliated with service in the armed forces, one section grants the Secretary the discretion to authorize burial of any person in a national cemetery (e.g., victims of a mass fatality event).

## **L. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**Overview:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has many programs that could support local communities recovering from disasters. These programs typically provide technical assistance for state, tribal, and local officials on environmental programs implemented by the agency. In particular, EPA coordinates programs to assist community drinking water/waste water utilities as well as assist community revitalization.

- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Programs:** If a community's water or wastewater system has been damaged or is out of service because of a disaster, community officials have several areas of recourse.

Community officials should work with their local emergency management agency to determine the status of water and wastewater system and to obtain a list of any unmet needs from the system. If such needs cannot be met at the local level, such needs can be elevated to the state. If such needs cannot be met at the state level, the state can make an [Emergency Management Assistance Compact](#) (EMAC) request to request aid such as personnel, services, equipment, and supplies from other states during an emergency.

Water and wastewater systems can also make requests for mutual aid from other water and wastewater utilities through the [Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network](#) (WARN) in their state. Utilities can receive emergency aid and assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and other associated services as necessary from other water and wastewater utilities.

Local emergency management agencies can also work with the state to apply for [FEMA Public Assistance Funds](#) to rebuild publicly owned or private non-profit water and wastewater utilities. EPA also provides states with State Revolving Funds (SRFs) to help construct, repair, and build resilience to water systems ([Drinking Water SRF](#)) and wastewater systems ([Clean Water SRF](#)). Further funding information about federal funding for disasters and mitigating future disasters can be found at EPA's tool Federal Funding – Water/Wastewater – in National Disasters or [FedFUNDS](#).

In the wake of a disaster, utilities can also participate in EPA-sponsored training to assist in mitigating future disasters and becoming more resilient. These include Flood Resilience Training (conducted in wake of hurricanes Irma and Harvey), Incident Command Training, and water sector training on federal funding for disasters and mitigation.

- **Community Revitalization:** EPA's Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) supports locally-led, community-driven efforts to revitalize local economies and improve environmental and human health outcomes. To accomplish this work, OCR collaborates with other EPA programs, federal agencies, regional, state, and local governments, and a broad array of nongovernmental and private-sector partners to

bring additional resources to communities and to leverage public and private sector investments. Assistance is provided at the community's request on issues such as the reuse and redevelopment of abandoned and underused properties; diversifying economies and revitalizing main streets through local and regional food systems, broadband infrastructure investments, light manufacturing, health care organizations and other community assets; disaster recovery and resilience and green and compete street designs.

To foster outcomes in the built environment that protect environmental quality and public health, support economic growth, and avoid disproportionate harm to disadvantaged communities, OCR:

1. Provides technical assistance in response to community requests:
  - a. [Local Foods, Local Places](#);
  - b. [Healthy Places for Healthy People](#);
  - c. [Cool & Connected](#);
  - d. [Building Blocks](#);
  - e. [Greening America's Communities](#);
  - f. [Governors' Institute on Community Design](#);
2. Produces tools, research, case studies and other information on a variety of topics;
3. Shares examples of community strategies and projects that can be models for other places;
4. Convenes diverse interests to encourage better growth and development.

## **M. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

**Overview:** The SBA Office of Disaster Assistance plays a critical role in assisting survivors of declared disasters. The SBA provides low interest, long term disaster loans to businesses non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters who meet program requirements. This financial assistance helps to repair or replace real estate, personal property, and business assets, including leasehold improvements, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, and inventory that have been damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster and are not covered by insurance or other recoveries. This includes –

- A business of any size may be eligible for a loan up to \$2 million for physical damage.
- A small business, small agricultural cooperative, small business engaged in aquaculture, and most private non-profit organizations may be eligible for a loan up to \$2 million for Economic Injury (working capital).
- Generally, a \$2 million limit for business loans applies to the combination of physical damage, economic injury, mitigation and refinance, and applied to all disaster loans to a business and its affiliates for each disaster.

- A homeowner may be eligible for a loan up to \$200,000 to repair/replace the disaster-damaged primary residence. Additional eligibility may be available for mitigation and/or refinance.
- A homeowner or renter may be eligible for a loan up to \$40,000 to replace damaged personal property.

More information about the SBA disaster assistance program is available at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).

### **III. Other Programs / Federal Agency Partners**

#### *Federal/State Partners*

#### **American Red Cross (ARC)**

**Overview:** The American Red Cross responds after emergencies to help provide for the urgent needs of individuals impacted by disaster. In the immediate aftermath, we focus on providing safe shelter, food, emotional support, first aid and disaster health services, disaster mental health services, reunification and emergency relief supplies such as comfort kits and cleaning supplies. The Red Cross also plays a critical role in helping families and communities recover in the weeks and months after a disaster.

The Red Cross' recovery program is designed to:

- Assist clients in bridging the gap between what they can accomplish on their own and what is necessary to allow them to move through the recovery process;
- Assist and support community leaders, government and relief agencies to organize and execute an effective recovery strategy;
- Provide value to our partner agencies and be supportive of their efforts on behalf of disaster affected families;
- Ensure that our assistance aligns with and complements governmental disaster relief programs; and
- Publicly reinforce our organizational commitment to be active throughout the disaster cycle.

Depending on specific circumstances, the Red Cross may provide direct financial assistance to people who need extra help getting back on their feet. Financial assistance is provided by the generosity of donors and is allocated through the casework and recovery process, which helps determine the needs of each individual or family. The Red Cross may also provide financial assistance for verified, disaster-caused health and mental health needs.

The Red Cross recovery program includes casework and recovery planning where we provide assistance to families & individuals in developing recovery plans, accessing the full range of community and government resources, advocacy and problem solving. Additionally, we work with communities on their overall recovery efforts and strategy

development by providing leadership, technical assistance, preparedness and resiliency information.

FEMA and the American Red Cross are co-leads for the mass care portion of Emergency Support Function (ESF)-6 (sheltering, feeding, distribution of emergency supplies, and reunification) in the National Response Framework (NRF). As co-leads for ESF-6, FEMA and the Red Cross work together to help state, tribal, territorial, and local governments and non-governmental organizations plan, coordinate and provide a breadth of mass care services for people affected by disasters. The Red Cross has decades of experience specializing in sheltering, feeding, providing comfort, and distributing relief supplies to people in need.

### *Other Federal Agency Engagement*

#### **A. Export-Import Bank (EXIM)**

**Overview:** Following the declaration of a federal disaster area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency due to the anticipated or realized impacts of disasters, EXIM can offer assistance measures to customers in areas declared to be disaster areas. For example, in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Lane, and Florence, EXIM made assistance available to customers. Generally, assistance would be provided for an initial period of six months to allow businesses and financial institutions that participate in EXIM's programs to return to their business concerns when appropriate and without penalty due to missed deadlines or other timeliness issues. This could include:

- **Working Capital Guarantee Program:** Automatic extensions for up to six months for working capital loan facilities, depending on maturation date relative to date of declared disaster. The extension would apply to both the loan facility and related loan facility fee. Claim-filing deadlines involving EXIM-backed working capital loans in affected areas would also be automatically extended. EXIM would also offer a waiver of provisions relating to both defaults and replenishment of collateral over advances resulting from losses of inventory or sales.
- **Multi-buyer and Single-Buyer Insurance Programs / Medium-Term Guarantee Program:** Automatic extension for up to six months of all claim-filing deadlines, shipment reporting, and premium payment deadlines and EXIM would provide flexibility in claims analysis and automatic policy renewal for policies with imminent expiration dates. The window of extension is dependent on date of declared disaster.

#### **B. Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)**

**Overview:** The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency for service and volunteering, helps communities to prepare for, mitigate, respond, and recover from disasters. Through its work with nonprofits, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and other groups, CNCS engages citizens in meeting economic, health, social, and environmental needs caused by disasters. Since 2011 CNCS has responded to over

500 State and federally declared disasters. AmeriCorps and Senior Corps have deployed over 13,000 national service members and engaged more than 1 million volunteers in disaster response. More [here](#).

- **AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams (A-DRTs):** AmeriCorps programs that have a heightened focus and commitment to disaster response and recovery. A-DRTs engage in activities and trainings year-round, are a nationally deployable resource, and are recognized in the emergency management community as leaders in volunteer management. More [here](#).
- **NCCC-FEMA Corps:** A disaster-assistance focused track of AmeriCorps NCCC that is directly deployable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). More [here](#).
- **Senior Corps RSVP:** A Senior Corps program that engages 55 and over volunteers in disaster response and recovery. More [here](#).
- **CNCS Disaster Cadre:** A cohort of federal employees who are specially trained to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.